FACTSHEET FIVE #29

Mike Gunderloy
6 Arizona Ave.
Rensselaer, NY 12144-4502

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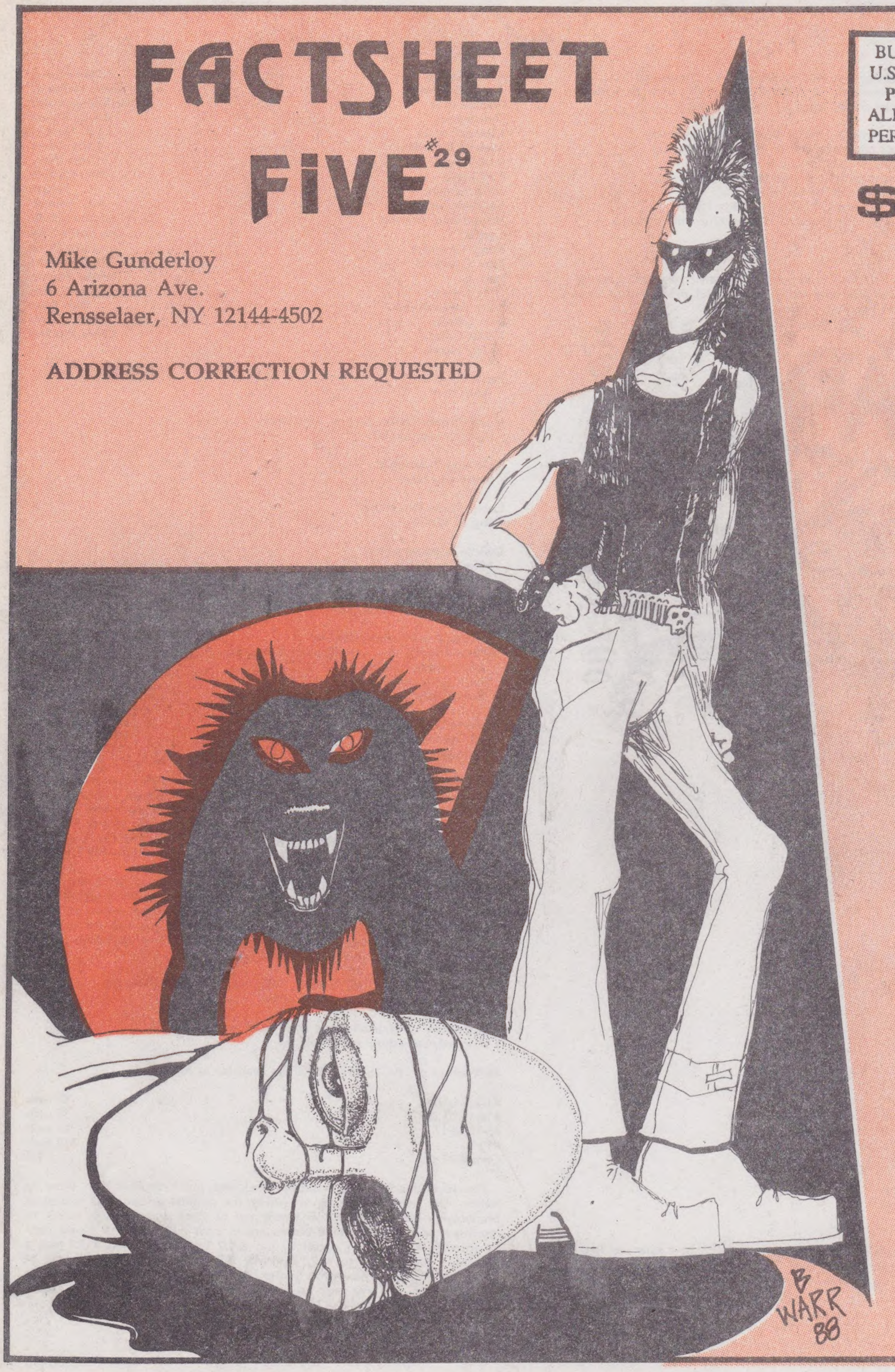

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StAPH
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CARRIE

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Contributing Artists
Due to the production schedule of this zine, I can't tell when I have this typeset whose art will actually appear in this issue. The following artists have generously contributed to my art files, with spot art or column headings.
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FACTSHEET FIVE will be published five times in 1989, appearing in the mails on or about the tenth of February, May, August, October, and December. Beginning in 1990, **FACTSHEET FIVE** will be published six times each year. Subscriptions are available at $2.00 (cash, check, Money Order or mint US postage stamps) per issue, up to 6 issues in advance. A six-issue subscription is $11.00. These copies are sent Bulk Mail within the US, First Class to Canada and Mexico, and Surface Mail overseas.

First class subscriptions within the US are available at $2.75 per issue, while Overseas Airmail may be had for $5.00 per issue. Six issues at First Class postage is $15.00. Library subscriptions are $3.50 per issue, or $18.00 for six issues, and include first-class mailing in envelopes and the quarterly index. A Lifetime Subscription, with First Class mailing anywhere on the continent, is $75. An Overseas Lifetime Subscription is $190.

1989 Deadlines for **FACTSHEET FIVE** are the 20th of January, April, July, September, and November.

A glossary of unusual terms used in FF is available for a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Back issues of **FACTSHEET FIVE** are available as follows:

#1,2,3,4,17.1	$1 each
#14,18,20-28	$2 each
#5-13,15-17	$3 each
#19	$10 each
Complete set	$65

The first four issues are ditto-printed and much smaller than those to follow. The remaining issues are either the original printing ($2 issues) or photocopies ($3 issues). #19 is nearly out of stock and probably won't be reprinted, and the remaining copies are in poor condition. All issues from #4 through #18 were in digest format 8 1/2 by 5 1/2 inches. #17.1 was a four-page supplement to #17. #19 was full-sized, 52 pages. #20 was 64 pages and the first newsprint issues. #21 was 80 pages, #22 through 26 were 72 pages, #27 was back up to 80 pages and #28 a walloping 88 pages. The first typeset issue was #26.

FACTSHEET
FIVE

Welcome to another issue of the zine of crosscurrents and cross-pollination. Available by mail or in person from Mike Gunderloy, 6 Arizona Ave., Rensselaer, NY 12144-4502; phone (518)-479-3707 (24-hour answering machine, so call anytime); 300/1200 baud phone (518)-479-3879 (call anytime you have a computer handy). This is Pretzel Press publication #793 and is intended for direct Bulk Mailing to subscribers and good people across the country, around the world, and right into your face. Press run: 5000 copies. 29th issue, February 1989.

* * *

This is where I explain the mailing code, on the far right of the first line of the address label.

A number indicates the last issue that you'll be getting. So if the number is "29", you need to Do Something if you want to keep getting FF. If the number is "29" and you don't even know why you got this, you probably have a Secret Admirer or something. Wanna subscribe?

There are a couple of things that can flank this number. If it's flanked with asterisks (*29*), you've paid for, and should be getting, first class postage. If it's flanked with carets (^29^), then this is a trade copy for which you paid first-class postage, after which you will revert to bulk-mail trade copies. If it's flanked with plus signs (+29+) you're getting a library subscription, including first-class postage, mailing envelopes, and the index.

"+" indicates that you've got nothing to worry about, because you're on the staph, you won a contest, or you just got lucky.

"A" means that you're getting this because of your artwork; either you sent me some or I want you to send me some, or both.

"B" means I'm trading for a book you sent.

"D" means that you're a distributor and so you get one copy for yourself as a freebie. I'm looking for new distributors, people who think they can sell at least ten copies and want to split the proceeds. Distributors get a 40% wholesale discount on all copies, and may sell on consignment. The number after the colon is how many copies I think I'm sending you.

"L" means that you are a Lifetime Subscriber, and therefore exempt from nonsense. Lifetime subscribers get their issues sent First Class. They also get free copies of **FACTSHEET FIVE** publications as they're issued — recently they were mailed their copies of Anni Ackner's book. Right now we're up to 47 lifetime subscribers, but there's always room for one more.

By the way, "lifetime" means either the magazine's lifetime or yours, whichever comes first. If you wish to buy a subscription which you may will to your heirs, contact me for a special rate.

"M" means you sent me music to review, or that you promised to send me music in the future. I usually allow 2 issues for a single, 3 for a tape, or 4 for an LP, but I screw up a bit, so let me know if you're owed more. (Or less).

"P" means you're a prisoner. **FACTSHEET FIVE** is always free to prisoners, but you need to keep in touch to keep getting it, otherwise I'll assume the copies aren't getting through to you. Wardens, you gotta pay like anyone else. Prisoners in mental institutions are extended the same privileges as those in allegedly-saner criminal institutions.

"R" means that this is a review/checking copy. It is for you to have to check the review I've done of your zine, or to be able to do a review of mine. I would like to see further copies of yours for future review — though of course you're not obligated to publish a review. I will continue to send you R copies as long as I stay on your mailing list, whether you write reviews or not. If you publish infrequently, I expect at least a note every six months to keep you on the mailing list.

"R?" means that I'd like you to consider sending copies of your zine in return for review/checking copies of mine.

Any of the above followed by a number (like "M/29") indicate the issue you'll have to renegotiate to keep getting FF. *You must get in touch with me at least once every two issues, regardless of the mailing code, to continue getting FF!* This applies to prisoners, artists, traders, everyone!

> Send me your zine, drop me a line, do **SOMETHING** so I know you're still out there. Actually, this doesn't apply to subscribers, only to people getting the zine for free. Clear?

Please take a moment to check your mailing label. If there are any mistakes, you have to let me know. They won't fix themselves. And you won't get any further warning if your subscription has run out.

And remember, FF is sent *bulk mail*. Not only does this make it slow (though, I hope, not *too* slow), but it means undeliverable copies go to that Big Post Office In The Sky. So **PLEASE** get your COAs to me promptly to avoid missing issues. I am not responsible for copies lost due to unannounced moves.

As far as delivery time goes, it seems to take anywhere between three days and three weeks for FF to get from me to you. If you don't get your copy by the end of the month of publication, call me and I'll send a replacement. Also, here's a tip from **SIMPLE COOKING #23**: "So far as slow or careless delivery is concerned, request US Postal Service Form 4314, the Consumer Service Card, from your local post office. Record your complaint appropriately (delay, nonreceipt, damaged, etc.) and send it to the postmaster of your district, not to your local post office. (It has the most impact when passed down from on high.) My local postmaster says these are taken seriously."

* * *

Subscription rates are on the Staph page, but here they are again: $2.00 (cash, check, money order, US stamps, or 5 IRCs) per issue for a regular sub. Those in the US can subscribe for $2.75 an issue and get FF delivered First Class instead of Bulk Mail. Library subscriptions are $3.50 per issue and include the index and first class mailing in protective envelopes. Those overseas can get Airmail delivery for $5 or 13 IRCs per issue. I'll also take the equivalent in any local paper currency. Any of these rates are good for up to 6 issues in advance, protecting you from price rises for a full year. Six-issue subscription rates are $11 for bulk mail, $15 for First Class, and $18 for Library subscriptions. Send money for more than 6 issues and I'll take it as a welcome donation. (Be sure to specify if you're sending money for a 1st class or library subscription!)

Publishers and others who get their issues without paying may have them delivered first class for $1 per issue. This rate is only valid if you would have received that issue anyhow.

If anyone wants to buy a lifetime subscription (lifetime of the magazine, that is), I'll sell you one for $75. Or make me a reasonable offer of trade or barter. An overseas lifetime subscription is $190.

Thanks to Stuart Anderson, Doug Biggert, Brain Prolapse, Geoffrey Fourmile, Matt Jasper, Paul Kub, Jay Millen, Tom Stockman and Donna Young for their generous donations towards publishing this issue. Special thanks to **MAXIMUM ROCK'N'ROLL** for their generous year-end contribution.

If you want FF sent to a friend, just send me their address and $2, or $2.75 if you're in a hurry. FF makes a great Christmas, birthday, or Bar Mitzvah present. I'll mark it as a gift from you unless you specify otherwise.

In lieu of sending stamps, money, fanzines, artwork, books, or music, you can get FF by sending me something to review that I haven't seen before, or by bartering dangerous drugs, canned goods, negotiable securities, wind-up sushi, or other flotsam from our society.

Thanks to Herb Ashe, Jon Bekken, Bob Black, Mykel Board, Donald F. Busky, Paul Di Filippo, Chris Dodge, Jim Downard, Gary Floam, Larry Gould, Joy Hibbert, Wayne Honath, Geof Huth, Jakob, Matt Jasper, Kevin Kelly, Kurluk, Matt Love, Mike Marinacci, Fred Mills, Jacek Mlodochowski, Hal Palmer, Kerry Pearson, Pinball Pete, Aaran Rainbow, Prentiss Riddle, Mark Rose, Dave Szurek, Jim Testa, Lang Thompson, Elayne Wechsler, Paul Weinman, Rosemary West, Martin Morse Wooster, and Bob Z for sending zines for me to review in this issue.

- Please note the new phone number — (518)-479-3707 — for **FACTSHEET FIVE.** This number rings right next to the computer, which is where I'm most likely to be, and has an answering machine on it for times when I'm not there, so please use it for all FF-related calls.

FACTSHEET FIVE
NEWS

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

•**ALL WAYS FREE** is now at PO Box 515, Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53706.

•**THE ANCIENT ARTS** and Castle Rising have migrated to PO Box 1424, Cumberland, MD 21502.

•**BONEDANCE** has danced off to 630 Stoddard St., East Lansing, MI 48823.

•Liam and Lydia Brooks and their various comics are now at 11439 A. Ptarmigan Dr., Austin, TX 78758.

•**BURNING ISSUES** now lights up at PO Box 1356, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410.

•**CHEMICAL CASTRATION** and Ben Gilbert have altered their address to 1819 N. Nevada, Colorado Springs, CO 80907.

•**DABLA** and Gizmo Stress may be reached more precipitously at 1247 Graham Ave. #H-8, Florence, AL 35630.

•**DE IRREGULAR** has moved to 4534 1/2 S. 15th St., Omaha, NE 68107.

•Ecto Tapes has remanifested itself at 5912 NW 62 Terr., Oklahoma City, OK 73122.

•**FACET** has relocated to 2845 McVicar, Kingman, AZ 86401.

•**IT'S ONLY A MOVIE** is only to be found at PO Box 14683, Chicago, IL 60614-0683.

•**LIBERTARIAN FAMILIST** has moved to 5205 Fairbanks #4, El Paso, TX 79924.

•**LIFE ON PLANET EARTH** is living at PO Box 3194, Bellingham, WA 98227.

•**LITTLE FREE PRESS** is now in PO Box 1087, Minneapolis, MN 55458.

•**THE LOG CABIN** has a new publisher: Jerry Edwards, PO Box 881, Medical Lake, WA 99022.

•**LOWLIFE** and Glen Thrasher are thrashing about in PO Box 8213, Atlanta, GA 30306-0213.

•Avi Naftel has been transferred to #45287, Arizona State Prison - Cimarron, 10000 S. Wilmot, Tucson, AZ 85777.

•**NEW HOPE INTERNATIONAL** is newly esconced at 20 Werneth Avenue, Gee Cross, Hyde, SK14 5NL, UNITED KINGDOM.

•**NIGHTMARE EXPRESS** is hiding at 1320 Mississippi #102, St. Paul, MN 55101.

•**Oness Press** has made one more move to PO Box 1064, Kurtistown, HI 96760.

•**THE PALLAS SOCIETY NEWS** is now at PO Box 18211, Encino, CA 91316.

•**PHOBIA** and Vortext Publications may be scared up at PO Box 23194, Seattle, WA 98102.

•**PLAIN BROWN WRAPPER** may be unwrapped c/o Dorothy, 9405 Nies Dr., Waterford, PA 16441..

•**POETRY MOTEL** has checked into 1201 Brainerd Ave., Duluth, MN 55811.

•**Pretty Publications** and their various zines have moved to 81 Castlerigg Drive, Burnley, Lancashire, BB12 8AT, ENGLAND.

•**PUNCTURE** has moved down the street to 1556 Filbert #3, San Francisco, CA 94123.

•**(R)EVOLUTION** is turning at PO Box 906, University Stn., Syracuse, NY 13210.

•**Michael J. Stotts** has been moved to 17829-034, Box 1700, Black Canyon Stage 1, Phoenix, AZ 85027-9741.

•**STRIDE** walked off to 37 Portland Street, Newtown, Exeter, devon, EX1 2EG, ENGLAND.

•**TOO FUN TOO HUGE** has gone too far to PO Box 2572, Cambridge, MA 02238.

•**VICE VERSA** has switched to PO Box 10432, Chicago, IL 60610-0432.

•**VOICES FROM SPIRIT** now speaks from PO Box 5155, Ellsworth, ME 04605.

•**WE** has moved to PO Box 1503, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

•**WE THE PEOPLE** and Michael Wolff are politicking from PO Box 704, South Houston, TX 77587-0704.

•**WINDOW** (formerly **TUNNEL TIMES**) may be seen at 6 S. 7th St. #206, Terre Haute, IN 47807.

•**WINGSPAN** is spreading its wings at 220 Broadway #204, Lynnfield, MA 01940.

•**WOO-WOO** is mooving along to 607 E. Dayton, Madison, WI 53703.

•**WOW!** and Wendi A.K. Dunlap are now at 5016 9th NE, Seattle, WA 98105.

•**YOUTH CONNECTION** and Terry Inman are at 2245 Noble Hall, Auburn University, AL 36830-5311.

Remember, since it costs me 30¢ just to get your COA if the Post Office tells me, and remailing your FF would cost me the price of another copy plus first class postage (they don't return whole issues, just covers), I'm not inclined to send you a replacement when this happens. If you want to keep your collection current, send me your Change of Address as soon as you know it!

LOST ADDRESSES

Anybody got a current address for any of these?

•**ABRAXAS**
•Dazar
•**EELGASTOE**
•Charles Evans
•**FAMOUS HARDCORE OF PUNKLAND**
•**FREEK MANIFESTO**
•Joseph Nephey
•**A SILVER LINING**
•Nudge Squidfish

DEAD ZINES

All of the following have ceased publication in the last few months:

•**ART DOG**
•**BEYOND THE FRINGE**
•**ELEVEN METER TIMES AND JOURNAL** (forced out by FCC lawsuit; may return in the future).
•**FUZBRAINS**
•**LA CROSSE TIME TRIP**
•**LIGHTEN UP!**
•**MANUSKRIPT**
•**MARY'S LETTER**
•**THE MORAL VOLCANOE** (publication suspended while the editor is in Japan).
•**NON-STOP BANTER**
•**RHETORIC FARM**

ERRATA

•I gave the city on GG Allin's new address incorrectly. It should have been: PO Box 704, Oaklawn, IL 60454.

•The proper address for **TOO FAR** is 3815 San Pablo #7, Emeryville, CA 94608. My apologies to anyone who had mail bounce due to my error.

•My review of **COPS HATE POETRY** covered a double issue, #7/8, not just #8 as I stated.

T-SHIRTS

Yes, they're still coming. This time around, we've the following additions to my wardrobe. Remember, I love to advertise for the lunatic fringe, and the preferred size is Medium or Large.

•**Betaville** is a crazy campy detective-flick sendup of a movie by Alyce Wittenstein, which we reviewed in FF27. Now you can get the official Betaville shirt, featuring the couple of lead characters in a rather harsh and angular representation. A classic indeed, available for $10 from Alyce Wittenstein, Atomique Film International, 141 W. Broadway, New York, NY 10013.

•**Bonfire in the Boneyard** ($10 from Marlon Michaels, PO Box 6904, East Grand Rapids, MI 49516) is a nifty syndicated radio show, which you'll find in the AUDIO section below. Meanwhile, the shirt is pretty neat in its own right. The front is very Steadmanesque, featuring a skeleton with microphone and the caption "Radio is dead and gone and we're just poking it with a stick". The back lists the bands involved, ideal for the hippest of collegians. Large and XL only.

•**Collinwood Revisted** (Bruce Yarbor, 2306 N. MacArthur, Oklahoma City, OK 73127) is a Dark Shadows zine, and this shirt is taken from the cover of their third issue. It features a grinning Barnabas, a skull, a full moon, and a gal who is probably someone important in the series but beyond my limited knowledge. I don't know what this white-on-black gem will set you back, but if you're a vampire addict definitely drop Bruce a line to find out.

•**HOT TUNA** (PO Box 58, Flourtown, PA 19031) didn't send me their limited edition autographed summer '88 "Boys of Summer" tour t-shirt, but for $18 you can get one for yourself. Only XL is available.

•**Jim Morris** (PO Box 831, Boulder, CO 80306) produce quite an extensive line of environmental t-shirts, some with images o both sides, others with beautiful full-color pictures on the front, at reasonable prices and with part of the profits being donated to environmental groups. Send about $1 for a catalog.

•**Rock Against Racism 1989** is the slogan on the 3-color shirt available from Entropress, 1000 Connecticut Ave. NW #9-13, Washington, DC 20036. The flyer isn't that impressive but I haven't seen the shirt. $15 a pop.

•**Stylized Toaster Enterprises** ($10 from Bill Bohrer, PO Box 49226, Austin, TX 78765) sent a tie-die shirt, black on white, in their "Zebra" pattern. It's not all that eyecatching in black, but they offer a wide range of other colors and patterns. They also have dolphins, penguins, and faces in linoleum prints. These shirts stand out as handmade rather than store-cloned.

•**The T-Shirt of the Month Club** is a new idea put together by Freddie Baer, to give her an excuse to produce a limited edition shirt every month. The first one is hot off the silkscreens now, and features a sort of horse-dragon in front of a vaguely celestial background, producing a rather enigmatic image. I don't think enrollment is filled yet, and the minimum commitment is $22.50 for 3 months worth of shirts; write to Freddie c/o Mystopia, PO Box 410151, San Francisco, CA 94141-0151.

•**Without Borders** is the name of the 1989 Continental Anarchist Gathering, being organized by the fine folks at Bound Together Books (1369 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94117). I've come by one of the shirts they're selling to raise money, designed and printed by Freddie Baer. It features a somewhat archaic world map with a songbird flying by, captioned "WITHOUT BORDERS: ANARCHIST CONFERENCE & FESTIVAL 1989". You can get your own for $9.50 postpaid.

ROLE-PLAYING GAMES:

•**ALIEN MATING SEASON SOLO HO!** ($1 from Allan Horrocks, 846 Thomas St., State College, PA 16803): A somewhat screwy trio of solitaire roleplaying adventures, which require no equipment beyond a few standard dice. Allan and company are definitely in this for laughs, and in fact there aren't really a whole lot of scenes to any of these adventures, but they're all pretty amusing. The set leads off with "An Alien Mating Brouhaha", in which you get to meet a loathesome monster from outer space with erotic designs. Following that is the highpoint of the collection, "The Good, the Bad, and the Boyd", a compendium of all the spaghetti westerns ever made. The wrap-up position is held by "Bo the Barbarian", a Conanesque trudge through some utterly evial dungeons. (HS-28t)

•**TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES**, by Erick Wujcik ($9.95 from Palladium Books, 5924 Lonyo, Detroit, MI 48210): I spent a lot of time with RPGs back when **DUNGEONS & DRAGONS** was about the only one around — long before the fancy & expensive manuals you now see for sale in Waldenbooks. Though I've drifted away from the hobby in recent years, I think I can still do a decent job of evaluating new entries. Of course, I didn't have the time or compatriots to actually playtest this, but when did I ever let that sort of thing interfere with writing a review?

This looks like a fun way to lose a great number of hours, based on the comic book of the same name (and of course with the permission, and in fact the illustrations, of the creators). Based on Palladium's **HEROES UNLIMITED** system, but relatively self-contained, **TMNT** will have you stalking about modern cities and ambushing fantastic criminals in reasonably short order. The character generation system is a bit complicated but for the most part well-explained, with the results being player characters based on mutant foxes, pheasants, armadilloes and yes, even turtles. These critters get their own powers and histories generated in a system which leaves the players some choice while not allowing them to construct invincible badguy slayers (unless they're very lucky).

There is a comic book feel to the whole, with things being rigged to generate good strong characters who will advance to a moderate level of skill quickly and then develop more slowly, so as to satisfy without boring. The combat system, while a tad complex, is a natural outgrowth of many ideas that have been kicking around the field, and should not be too hard to learn. For the beginner, there are half a dozen adventure scenarios included in the back, along with character sheets for their participants.

I only caught a few inconsistencies in the rules (the most glaring being whether a 16 for an attribute gets a bonus roll or not), and the number of typoes is surprisingly low. All in all, a high quality product that would have been greatly appreciated by the gonzo gamers I used to hang around with. (S-110t)

SOFTWARE

•Robert Carr, **MORMONOIDS FROM THE DEEP** ($7 from 22110 N 9th St, Boise, Idaho 83702): Shareware game for Mac Plus & SE; ran fine on a Mac II. You're stranded in Mormon country, a deadly bacteria escapes. To stay alive while searching for gas you must drink, curse, & 86 someone from time to time — intoxication has antiseptic properties! No animation, simply "east," "west," "search," "punch," etc. After winning once it's easy to win again *if* you quit the game and double- click. However, if after winning you merely choose "new" from the File menu, watch out! ome may find the game too basic (rooted in Hypercard shell), but the "immoral" creativeness is really fun to experience. There's a sound file that must be on its own disc and in a disc drive: if the sound file is copied to a hard drive or omitted, only a few select sounds will be heard. [Hint: sound effects are nice, but it's much faster w/o sound.] During the game your name is fixed as "(insert your name here)"; the author indicates that he's working on this unsightly shortcoming. The $7 is the shareware fee if you copy from a friend, both discs available from author for $10. Multifinder friendly. (pj)

•**POETRY GENERATOR, ADVANCED VERSION** ($29 from R.K. West Consulting, PO Box 8044, Mission Hills, CA 91346): This is a piece of shareware, with a $29 registration fee; you can get an evaluation copy for $3. If you have an IBM PC or compatible with 256K of RAM and a hard disk, it will allow you to generate an almost unlimited number of poems — with a 30,000 word vocabulary and lots of styles, I don't expect you'll see the same one twice.

The rules of choosing and arranging words are based on Rosemary's own work, and what comes out is a sort of loosely constrained verse, minimally punctuated, often dealing with love and relationships, though there are a lot of other things in here as well. As a bonus, you can generate "personalized poems" using someone's name. Here's one gem the program popped up for me:

As the Confusion Retreats
As the confusion retreats
his self indulgence
stands at the gate
because of the wind
The lovers of Mike's old friend
admire
conventional wisdom
Mike fills your mailbox with trash

I can't guarantee that you'll get anything as apropos as the last line, but this is a nice little program that generates, at the very least, the poetic equivalent of ink blots.

OTHER NEWS:

•**1789** is the theme of a mail art exhibition to be held in Isbergues, France, in July, on the occasion of the bicentennial of the French Revolution. Send works before June 1st to Art Postal 1789, chez F. Billiau, 34, rue Louise-Michel, Berguette, 62330 Isbergues, FRANCE.

•**The A.1 Waste Paper Co. Ltd.** (71, Lambeth Walk, London SE11, ENGLAND) sent me their 1988 Christmas Catalogue, full of excessively bizarre cut-up prose, collage, and weird humor, as well as some other mail-artish items. They would probably react well to very strange mail from almost anywhere.

•**AAARG!** is the American Atheists' Addiction Recovery Groups, an alternative to the God-based twelve-step method first promoted by Alcoholics Anonymous. For information and referrals, write them at PO Boc 6120, Denver, CO 80206-0120.

•**Always - In Vain** (Miroslav Janousek Jr., Kamerunska 605, 160 00 Praha 6, CZECHOSLOVAKIA) is a mail artist who sent me a nice pile of drawings, some with captions in some eastern European language or other, in a curiously decorated envelope. He'd probably appreciate artistic correspondence from the West.

•A batch of **anarchists** who got in touch at the recent gatherings are trying to get a new national newspaper together. You can contact them c/o the Hayday Anarchists, 606 W. Barry #251, Chicago, IL 60657.

•**Art Hilary** (c/o Reuben Pinkney, Workshop, Bath old Road, Radstock, Bath Avon BA3 3HD, ENGLAND) has announced a mail art show: "Send work for contributor's magazine: Instructions, Diagrams,and Directions. A4 format B&W photocopy. Returns if requested. Documentation and copy to all included."

•**Artrock** (225 E. Liberty Plaza, Ann Arbor, MI 48104) is an outfit that sells posters and other art from the golden age of psychedelia. Lots of nice stuff here, with prices starting at $5.

•**ARTWARE** (c/o Uwe Hamm-Furholter, Taunusstrasse 38, D-6200 Wiesbaden, WEST GERMANY) is a mail-order distributor of music, videos, books, and zines. They have a nice fat catalog out, though the prices are all in DM.

•**BASIC CHOICES**, the Adult Education organization headed up by the able John Ohliger, is out with a 1989 Almanac for adult educators. It features quotes, historic events, and cartoons having to do with adult and continuing education. You can get a copy for $12.95 from LERN, 1554 Hayes Dr., Manhattan, KS 66502. John, the moving force behind Basic Choices, has also put together a 30-page paper called "Some Thoughts on Knowledge and Power" full of interesting speculations, including the idea that computers may be replacing philosophy as things to be done for their own sake. You can get a copy for a $5 tax-deductible contribution from John at 1023 Drake St., Madison, WI 53715-1609. He's also put together a bibliography on adult education wit & humor, also available for $5. Or just send a buck to see what he's been thinking about lately.

•**E.J. Barnes** (24 Kent St., Quincy, MA 02169) has a set of a dozen different pun-based postcards for sale at $2 for the set. These include things like a paper bag containing a dinner roll (captioned on the back "A Roll in the Sack" and an airplane occupied by four members of the clergy ("Religious Transport").

•**Bat Conservation International** (PO Box 162603, Austin, TX 78716-2603) has a great deal of bat-related merchandise available. Their basic information packet is $6.95, or you can try an SASE for their catalog.

•**The Boston Anarchist Drinking Brigade** (PO Box 1323, Cambridge, MA 02238) has issued a broadside titled "Deregulating Drug Use: an Anarchist Perspective". In it they argue for total decriminalization and deregulation of all drugs, both recreational and therapeutic. I happen to think this is a good idea; if you want to read the argument for yourself, try sending an SASE.

•**BRAIN CELL** is the continuing mail art project of Ryosuke Cohen (3-76-I-A-613 Yagumokitacho, Moriguchi-City, Osaka 570, JAPAN). Every couple of weeks he sends out a poster-sied piece of paper with sixty or so brilliantly-colored artists' stamps on it. To participate and get a copy, send a rubber stamp of your own or 150 stickers or seals.

•**Wayne Branch** (4842 N. 30th Pl., Phoenix, AZ 85028) is sending out limited eddition prints to folks who intrigue him. The latest, "Snake Lady" is in silver on white, so I can't reproduce it here, but it's engagingly strange.

•**The Mae Brussell Research Center** (PO Box 8431, santa Cruz, CA 95061) has been formed to catalog, cross-index and disseminate all the strange conspiracy information that Mae accumulated over 17 years of weekly radio shows. For $25 to $1000 you can help the effort.

•**THE CALLIGRAPHIC BUTTON CATALOG THROUGH TIME AND SPACE** is Nancy Lebovitz's list of hundreds of buttons for sale, just reissued with about 40 new slogans. These include "I'd be an agnostic if I cared that much", "Get thee down. Be thou funky", and "Anarcho-capitalist for sale or rent". For the full list, send $1 to Nancy at 400 Wollaston Ave. #C6, Newark, DE 19711.

•**The Center Party** (PO Box 97, Venice, CA 90291) is apparently a new political group, fed up with the old groups, that wants simple solutions. Their stands seem to be a mix of naive internationalism, anti-bankerism, and a return to conservative values. If you want to check them out for yourself, their platform is $5, but I found it pretty soporific.

•**The Church of the Drunken Sailor** (c/o Chris Nemec, NT Box 8982, Denton, tx 76203) is a new "church that doesn't take itself seriously", worshipping Allah, "Bob" Dobbs, Buddha, God and Otto, the drunken sailor.

•I got another pile of tracts and flyers from **The Church of God Within** (c/o Rev. Salamandir, PO Box 2683, Bellingham, WA 98227). They cite all manner of quotes East and West in support of their brand of spirituality. An SASE should get you a sample.

•And speaking of churches, Rev. Ivan Stang of **The Church of the SubGenius** has promised (once again) that new copies of the **STARK FIST** are on their way to the printer, and might even get to church members one of these years.

•**The Community Capital Bank** (PO Box 404920, Brooklyn, NY 11240-4920) is being organized to provide capital to those in low and moderate income neighborhoods in New York City. Part of the larger movement towards socially-responsible investing, they intend to form a full-service commercial bank making loans for low and moderate income housing and businesses. For more information, drop a line to Allegra Azouvi, their Public Affairs Director.

•**The Conscience and Military Tax Campaign** (4534 1/2 University Way NE #204, Seattle, WA 98105) can send you a nice packet of information on resisting taxes so as not to contribute to the military madness. The options range from relatively safe phone tax resistance to dangerous straightforward battles with the IRS. An SASE will tell you more.

•**Constance Enterprises** (PO Box 43277, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043) sells via mail order a number of things for the fetishist who is into leather, latex, rubber, chastity belts, or similar items.

•**Matthew Courtney's Wide Open Cabaret** happens every Sunday evening at ABC No Rio, 156 Rivington St., New York. Sign-up at 6:45, $1 admission.

•**Norman Crowhurst** (PO Box 63, Dallas, OR 97338) has been investigating the origins and legal (or illegal) powers of the IRS for quite some time. Lately he's considered such topics as the theological and ethical implications of signing income-tax forms. He also sends out occasional letters of biblical study such as his recent "Paradigms of Jurisdiction". For a few bucks you can get on his mailing list and see what he has to say. Ask for a copy of his January "Summary and Resolutions"; it's a good place to start understanding all this.

•**The Crusade to Abolish Traffic Tickets** (5410 Wilshire Blvd. #409, Los Angeles, CA 90036) is still crusading, and now they've got a new target: the abolition of stop signs and stop lights, which unconstitutionally remove our rights of way. For more details on this and the ten times your money back plan to abolish tickets, send an SASE.

•**Crypto Press** (3751 Little Neck Pt. Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23452) is trying to create an anarchist "platform" (I would prefer some other word, but that's picking nits) which can garner wide agreement. If you want to be a part of the drafting process, send an SASE.

•**De Media** (Molenstraat 165, 9900 Eeklo, BELGIUM) has put out **KLEINE BLAADJES CATALOGUS**, a collection of all the small pres reviews from the first 10 issues of **MEGAZINE BULLETIN**, together with an index by title and by genre. At 48 A4 pages, this gives you 200+ reviews, but will probably cost $5 or so. Oh, and it's all in Dutch, but somehow that makes it more fun.

•**Paul Di Filippo** (2 Poplar St., Providence, RI 02906) continues to make fun of the SF world. One of his latest is suggested Ace Doubles, including things like **STARSHIP TROOPERS** backed with **THE FOREVER WAR.** I don't know how you can get on his mailing list, but filthy lucre is always worth a try.

•If you send as much mail as I do, you might consider getting the **DOMESTIC MAIL MANUAL** or the **INTERNATIONAL MAIL MANUAL,** with all the rules for the postal service. This is how I know, for example, that you can mail live scorpions within this country (within certain limits), but not erasers to Sri Lanka. The **DMM** is $17 a year, and the **IMM** is $14 a year, either one from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9371.

•**The Earth Celebrations Coordinating Office** (Anse St-Jean, Quebec, G0V 1J0, CANADA) is the current incarnation of the Earth Concert Project, gearing up towards a tremendous media event, fundraiser, and environmental regeneration at the end of 1989. Send 3 IRCs for more information.

•**EARTHSEALS,** circular stickers about 1 1/2" in diameter with a color photo of the earth from space, are available for a donation from For Gaia, PO Box 8000, Berkeley,CA 94707. "If 'by donation' is too loose a guideline, figure $.12-.15 each, plus $2 for postage and handling."

•Back issues of **EL DJARIDA,** a large-format mail-art tabloid, may be had for 3 IRC's each from Box 4536 Kalvskinnet, 7002 Trondheim, NORWAY.

•Eric from **METHOD** skatezine (19038 Canadian Ct., Gaithersburg, MD 20879) has a selection of "psycho stories" available to anyone who wants to publish them. They're short, morbid, and often surreal.

•**The Espejo Parabolico** is a solar concentrator design which Michael Meredith has put considerable effort into, trying to find something that can be made out of reasonably cheap materials. He comes up with about $6 per square foot for a large unit, and is looking for others who can continue this project into the prototyping stage. You can reach him at 8941 Victoria Rd., Springfield, VA 22151.

•**Esperanto** primers and other materials are available from the Esperanto League for North America (PO Box 1129, El Cerrito, CA 94530) and the Canadian Esperanto Association (C.P. 126, Succ. Beaubien, Montreal, Que H2G 3C8, CANADA).

•**FaGaGaGa** (PO Box 1382, Youngstown, OH 44501) says simply "My mail art is available to all."

•**Family Net** (PO Box 27172, Lansing, MI 48909) is a sort of central contact point for members of the Rainbow Family. If you feel like this means you, you should send an SASE for the listing form.

•**George D. Fawcett** has a list of 162 sources of information on UFOs available for $5 from 602 Battleground Rd., Lincolnton, NC 28092.

•**FED-UP** (Peter Christodoulou, PO Box 780, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0780) stands for Federation Educating the Public in the Directives of Uncontrollable and Dangerous Pigs. Basically, they're handing out leaflets

Community Capital Bank (in organization)

Lyndon B. Comstock, Principal Organizer
PO Box 404920
Brooklyn, NY 11240
718-768-9344

Community Capital Bank (formerly Bank for Social Responsibility) will be a full-service, for profit, FDIC-insured commercial bank operating in New York City. Community Capital will promote affirmative investment by actively lending to housing development and small business in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods of New York City. The bank's offices will be located in downtown Brooklyn.

Community Capital's focus is community economic development. By providing improved capital access and banking services to both for-profit and not-for-profit housing developers, as well as small manufacturers and a variety of service businesses, Community Capital will help to stimulate housing production and better employment opportunities. At the same time, sound banking practices will be followed to ensure the Bank's financial success. The feasibility of such an approach has now been well demonstrated, notably by the South Shore Bank of Chicago.

A range of consumer banking services will be offered, including money market accounts, checking, credit and automatic teller machine access. Community Capital will seek depositors on a nationwide basis.

Community Capital's initial equity capitalization of $6 million will be raised via a public offering of common stock, subsequent to receiving appropriate regulatory approvals. The Bank is expected to open its doors in Spring 1989.

Anyone wishing to be placed on the Community Capital Bank Organizing Group mailing list should write to the address given above.

explaining what a bunch of crooked slimeballs the local cops are. For samples, send an SASE.

•"**Flags** of all jurisdictions, organizations, movements — all sizes, and t-shirts too...we don't have a catalog. Send your requests with a SASE to Boxholders, PO Box 716, Moyock, NC 27958. Now available — the flag of Palestine."

•**The Freedom Through Truth Foundation** (PO Box 1222, Oak Park, IL 60304) are "Distributors of Truthful Information About Money". It looks like the usual stuff about doing away with the gold standard and charging usorious interest to deliver this country into the hands of the Evil Bankers. If you want to know more, write 'em.

•**GLASS** (8235 Santa Monica Blvd. #214, West Hollywood, CA 90046) stands for Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Social Services, an organization providing places to live and other support for gay youth. One of my readers thought you should know about them next time you're thinking of giving to charity.

•**Hans-Werner Glaw** (Guthstr. 68, 4830 Gutersloh, WEST GERMANY) has announced a mail art show for November 1989 on the subject of "Bookmarks - useful, cultural, and artistic objects".

•**Global Walk** is a project of the Citizens Network for Common Security (Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853). "Beginning on the West Coast in January 1990, the walk will cross the United States and then continue into other countries around the world. It will offer practical solutions to problems, inspire hope and awaken new ideas and possibilities. 'Livable World Fairs' along the walk route will feature appropriate technology, cultural celebrations and educational programs. The walk will herald a shift in our view of ourselves and the world in which we live, and promote a just, sustainable and secure world."

•**Ravi Scwazmeesh Gormoosh** is a character who hangs around in a bus terminal in Portland, handing out strange computer printouts with his wisdom of the ages. For $1 & an SASE, one of my readers will make copies of his output for you. Send to Chris Loughner, 605 SE 26th, Hillsboro, OR 97123.

•**The Grinning Idiot Press** (PO Box 1748, Whitney, TX 76692) has a selection of rants available on this asylum we're living in and its insane rulers. 50¢ will get you some introductory material.

•**Gryphon Publications** (PO Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228-0209) has a catalog out explaining their small-press philosophy and discussing their various magazines and booklets (including **DETECTIVE STORY** and **PAPERBACK PARADE**) in some detail. The 24-page catalog is available for $1, refundable with your order.

•**Wayne Honath** (332 Atlanta Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15228-1125) has a set of 3 "Howie" postcards available for 75¢.I especially liked "Howie vs. Godzilla", in which the man of a million hats bests the giant monster at Yahtzee.

•**Lori Icke** (330 E. Wasatch St., Midvale, UT 84047) sent me a little pile of mail-artish things she's been involved in, including some very nice stamp designs captioned "Motionless Dreams". Undoubtedly sending your own artistic endeavors would be a nice way to make contact.

•**The Illustrators of the Future Contest** is offering $1500 in prizes each quarter for the best works by new science fiction and fantasy artists. For complete rules, write to L. Ron Hubbard's Illustrators of the Future Contest, 2210 Wilshire Blvd. #343, santa Monica, CA 90403.

•"**Information/Literatur** on any subject. From your personal problems to international, hobbies, home based businesses, thousands of other subjects. One subject one time. Information publications and service 2065/9 OPP:- Fatima Jinnah Hospital - Multan PAKISTAN (Easy earnings, dealers wanted)"

•**David Lee Ingersoll** (PO Box 15082, Santa Rosa, CA 95402) is selling his **CALENDAR FOR 1989** for $10. It features a variety of punkoid people and lizards interacting in full-page illustrations, as well as words for the day, holidays, and suggestions for filling spare time, from "Gamble the Rent" to "See if I care" to "Kiss Her You Fool". David draws **MOE & DETRITUS** and this is in much the same style.

•**The Intergalactic House of Fruitcakes** (PO Box 235, Williamstown, MA 01267) continues to promote the worship of Otis by issuing collaged posters and manifestoes of dubious intent. For more information try an SASE.

•**The International Music Workers Union** (12531-G Harbor Blvd. #188, Garden Grove, CA 92640) has a selection of anarchist propaganda posters, attacking church, cops, and state, available for an SASE.

•**Jabberwocky Graphix** (PO Box 166255, Irving, TX 75016), the comics imprint headed by Brad Foster, still has their catalog of comics from the salacious to the merely wacky available for $1.

•**John's Picks** (PO Box E, Suisun City, CA 94585) is mostly a book catalog, and mostly computer books at that. But he also carries selected hard-to-find software (like the stuff you need to maintain consulting records), screwy mugs, and Escher jigsaw puzzles and T-shirts, plus general science books and things like cassettes of music from video games.

•**The Justice Advocate** (PO Box 3125, Denver, CO 80201) is an "Information Clearinghouse" for all manner of news about the worthlessness of the Federal Reserve Note, income taxes, 20,738% inflation since 1836, and like topics. Send them a stack of stamps and you're bound to get something interesting in return.

•"**The Kindred Community** is a small group of men and women who run two emergency shelters for homeless single men, women, and families. We are also anarchists and are interested in far too many issues for out own good and/or sanity. Presently we are in flux, one member returning from 4 years in prison for a Plowshares-level-of-seriousness protest action, another member leaving to get himself in similar trouble. We have been going through troubles related to alcohol and other drug abuse, which has another person on the way out the door. We would like to hear from people (without substance abuse problems) interesteed in "voluntary poverty" (if you're already poor, that's OK — you know what's up), working with poor and/or homeless people, intentional community, anarchy, etc. etc. etc. We don't care about your sex, sexual preference, color, or religious beliefs (or lack of same); any D&D players out there interested in all this? Contact person is Thornton Kimes, Kindred Community, 1337 6th Ave., Des Moines, IA 50314."

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•**Donna Kossy's KOOKS Magazine** (PO Box 953, Allston, MA 02134) is now paying for book reviews and articles on kooks and kookdom. Send an SASE for guidelines.

•**The League of Prayer** (PO Box 4038, Montgomery, AL 36104) sent me an election mailing that didn't get here until it was all over. It claims to be a "Dukakis Fact Sheet", and starts off with "Sodomy and religion co-equals! ACLU member...Appoints witch" and goes on from there. No doubt if you get on their mailing list there will be plenty of amusing stuff to follow.

•**The Lockweed Press Calendar for 1989** ($7 from Verlag Golem, PO Box 3414, Providence, RI 02906): A cheerful collection of literary wisdom from the inhabitants of Lockweed, "situated on the fashionable Main Line somewhere between Haverford and Bryn Mawr". Besides the usual dates and phases of the moon stuff, this calendar will teach you to recognize toad eggs in your drink, reveal a newly-found Shakespearian sonnet, provide activities for the wee ones, and give you the menu of Ed's Sushi-O-Rama. Charming and amusing and as bizarre as any small town is ever likely to be.

•**LUNO** is the Learning Unlimited Network of Oregon (c/o Gene Lehman, 31960 SE Chin St., Boring, OR 97009). Gene tries to make learning, especially learning to spell, fun, with a series of phonetic limericks and other cute things. If you have school-age kids you should send a couple of bucks for sample exercises to amuse them, particularly if you're a home-schooler.

•**Barnaba B. Lwanda** (c/o Ms. Margaret Lwanda, Adult Ed. Press, PO Box 9121, Dar-Es-Salaam, TANZANIA) "wants to start a network for international understanding." [Listing courtesy of Adam Seraphic.]

•**Macabrecards** come from the Westgate Group (8 Bernstein Blvd., Center Moriches, NY 11934). They feature hand-colored collage works by Leilah Waddell, the author who's written about her, um, life with the Angel of Death. $8.95 for an assorted ten-pack or SASE for more info.

•**MALOK** (PO Box 41, Waukau, WI 54980) sent me another package with original artwork (now hanging on the wall of the FF office), stickers, and collages included — the latter juxtaposing scraps of adwords with bits of imagery from the spectacle. Communication is perhaps a bit strained by this method but the tradeoff is getting an interesting enigma. Send somethign enigmatic of your own and see what turns up.

•**Edward Markov** (Kostyushko 10/67, Leningrad 196240, RSFSR/USSR) is a science fiction translator and writer who is trying to get out of the Soviet Union. He asks for small presses to please send him their publications so the authorities will know people are acting on his behalf. For more information, contact Dov Rigal, 80 Mill St., Kidlington, Oxford OX5 2EF, ENGLAND.

•**The Medium is the Medium** is the title of a new poster available from Labor of Ludd (PO box 11492, Eugene, OR 97440). In a series of alliterative sentences, it sets out what's wrong with the world and hints at a programme for fixing it ("rewinding reality readies really radical reversals..."). Probably available for SASE.

•**Memory Hole Books** (122 Trinity Pl., Syracuse, NY 13210) is looking for new zines to sell on 60% consignment. They'll take 5 copies of most anything on that basis.

•**Mentifex Systems** (PO Box 31326, Seattle, WA 98103-1326) sent me a blurb for their new "Theory of Mind", complete with confusing diagram. They wish to share their thoughts with "fellow eccentrics".

•**MID*POINT** (Box 17, Route 133, Bridgewater, CT 06752) "is an altruistic, non-profit, tax-exempt foundation." Their research area is "creative communications", and they've applied skills and ideas gained from working with dolphins to helping autistic children. Apparently it works. SASE should get you a bit more info.

•The **MURDER CAN BE FUN 1989 DATEBOOK** is out and available for $2 from John Marr, PO Box 640111, San Francisco, CA 94109. In a handly two-week-at-a-glance format, it gives you a different morbid or disgusting or criminal anniversary every day. As I write this, for example, it's the 43rd aniversary of the hanging of Lord Haw Haw. Indispensable as a source of replies to "Have a Nice Day".

•**The Nature Company** (PO Box 2310, Berkeley, CA 94702) sells all sorts of upscale nature toys and trinkets: Christmas lights shaped like lizards, do-it-yourself paleontologist kits, kinetic sculptures, ambient recordings, hummingbird posters, crystals, kaleidoscopes, and more. You can get a copy of their most recent catalog by calling 800-227-1114.

•I got another come-on from **NEO-TECH** (I&O Publishing Co., 850 S. Boulder Hwy., Henderson, NV 89015). This purports to be a discovery of Frank Wallace, ex-research chemist, who will teach you The Secret to winning at poker, making zillions on the stock market, "sexual immortality", and who knows what else, for only $100. He also notes that the Federal government is trying to shut down his operation to "protect the traditional money/power structures", so be sure to buy soon — if you're that dumb.

•**NYCS** (Nyack Campus, 54 4th Avenue, Nyack, NY 10960) is a shadowy entity (I don't even know whether it be individual or group) that sends out photocopied art with instructions "Please Add to and Return" on an irregular basis, thus dragging even the least talented of us into some major art network. Purpose? I dunno.

•**The Peace Resource Center** sent along its latest catalog, full of films, slides and books that fit under the general rubric of "Peace Education Resources". Sadly much of this focuses on the horrors of war, but there are hopeful proactive things as well. You can probably get the catalog for a buck.

•**J.F. Poms**, publisher of the **INTERNATIONAL ADVERTISER** (PO Box 272, A-1090 Vienna, AUSTRIA) is looking for a U.S. agent to handle orders and possibly reprinting of his big mails against a 50% commission.

•**The Primal Plunge** (107 Brighton Ave., Allston, MA 02134) has put out a catalog of their offerings, available for $1. Besides selling a batch of the zines you've read about here (and a few that you haven't), they carry tapes, books, postcards, and chapbooks from the underground. A nice selection of hard-to-get items.

•**Project 1313** (PO Box 1313, Lawrence, KS 66044) is still trying to get Avi Naftel transferred from Arizona to England, based on an international treaty dealing with prisoners in both countries. The appeal has gone clear up to the Governor, so this is the last chance for Avi. For more info, send an SASE to the Project.

•**PUBLIC BRAND SOFTWARE** (PO Box 51315, Indianapolis, IN 46251) has one of the larger catalogs of public domain and shareware programs for IBM-compatible PCs that I've seen. You can get a copy for a buck, though of course you should take appropriate anti-viral safeguards should you get any of this software.

•**The Rainforest Action Network** (300 Broadway, San Francisco, CA 94133) is an activist organization trying to save the complex ecology of the remaining rain forests. They issue periodic "Action Alerts", with suggestions on who to write, somewhat on the madel of Amnesty International. $10 will get you on their mailing list for a year.

•**Reclaim the Test Site II** is the title for this year's nonviolent resistance at the Nevada nuclear testing grounds, scheduled for April 7-16. Last year they had 2065 arrests, making it the largest intentional nonviolent civil resistance in U.S. history, even if it didn't make your local paper. This year they're trying to organize 1000 people to hike to ground zero, risking 6 months in jail. For more info, write to PO Box 26725, Las Vegas, NV 89126, or call 702-731-9646.

•**A.C. Samish** (2118 Guadalupe #191, Austin, TX 78705) has six pages of his rants and techno-sexual drawings available for a 25¢ stamp. You've seen his family-magazine work here in FF; this is the screwier stuff.

•**The Sedition Committee** (PO Box 4690, Springfield, MA 01101) is the support group for the Ohio 7, who are currently undergoing a rather extended trial for seditious conspiracy & assorted mopery and dopery. You can get on their mailing list for a $5 donation.

•**Serge Segay** (Sverdlova 176, 353660 Eysk, USSR) will send samples of his art, or exchange mail art, on request. [Listing courtesy of Adam Seraphic].

•**SEE HEAR** (59 E. 7th St., New York, NY 10003), probably the largest seller of music magazines and fanzines in the country, has got their 8th catalog out for those of you not lucky enough to live in the Big Apple. $1 will get you a copy.

•**SEMIOTEXT(E)** has drawn a lot of complaints about non-shipment of their fabulous USA issue, recommended here some while ago. Here's the story: they ran out of the first printing last fall, and then ran into censorship problems trying to arrange a second printing. But those problems should have been solved, and back-orders shipped in January. If you ordered a copy, and still don't have it by the time you get this FF, drop them a line and they'll sort things out. (Autonomedia, PO Box 568, Brooklyn, NY 11211-0568).

•**SFTV** (c/o The Press Gang, 9902 Plover Dr., Austin, TX 78753) is trying to survey the interest in an all science-fiction cable TV station. For more information send an SASE & 10¢ to cover copying costs.

•**SOME DONT'S AND DO'S FOR THOSE WHO MISS THE RAPTURE** (10¢ from The Midnight Cry, PO Box 3686, Tequesta, FL 33458) is a tract explaining things for those who aren't quite saved when the world starts ending. They advise being tortured to death, instead of enlisting in the army or taking the mark of the beast, as the quickest way to get out of the Tribulations and on with your eternal life.

•**The St. Priapus Church** (583 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102) has put out their 1989 "Phone Buddies" private telephone directory of gay men who want to get in touch with each other over the phone, and sometimes by mail and in person. The listings are quie explicit. Copies are available for a $20 donation and include a listing in the next issue, or you can get on their mailing list for $5.

•"**The Subterranean News Service**, an organization of Chicago-area high-school underground newspapers, is interested in getting in touch with other high school students publishing ot thinking of publishing their own newspaper or zine. Send us some stamps, or trades, or a nice letter and we'll write back with some samples and information. (1909 E. Liberty Dr., Wheaton, IL 60187-5881)."

•**Swami Nirmalananda** (B.R. Hills-571313, Karnataka, INSIA) sends the occasional pamphlet about his works and teachings. A nice letter or a few IRCs might put you in touch.

•**The Thelemic Arts Center** (27 Teetsel St., Saugerties, NY 12477) runs a performance space, a gallery, a library and a store, all with the focus on local artists.

•**Thinkpeace Lapel Pins** feature the U.S. and Soviet flags together in full color. You can get one for free or 50 for $75 by writing to Dept. 7C, 4475 Mission Blvd. #210, San Diego, CA 92109.

•**THIS MONTH** is the monthly catalog of surplus and salvage bargains from H&R (401 E. Erie Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19134-1187). The Nov./Dec.

Wetlands
PRESERVE

161 Hudson Street
New York City 10013
(212) 966-4225

SUNDAYS 5 O'CLOCK SHARP

Eco-Saloon We'll drag you if we have to!

issue has everything from a complete Telecine TV system for $25,000 to GI Purple Heart boxes for $2.

•**Twisted Image**, the fabulously amusing comic strip by Ace Backwords, is still available for an SASE from 1630 Unviersity Ave. #26, Berkeley, CA 94703.

•**Edgar "Bolt" Upright** (104 W. Main St. #4, Carrboro, NC 27510) sent me a whole pile of collaged stickers, posters, and pamphlets. The texts of the pamphlets are particularly bizarre, made by splicing together three or four passages in such a fashion as to make maddeningly little sense. The posters are classics as well, men with barbells flying across the sky, trains chugging through surreal landscapes. All are available "in trade for something suitably...uh, well something suitable!"

•**Judy Vermorel** (PO Box 6652, FDR Station, New York, NY 10150) is conducting a survey of pop and rock fans with an eye towards putting out a book to examine this phenomenon from the fans' own point of view. If you're interested in participating, you might get in touch.

•**Vortext Publications** (PO Box 23194, Seattle, WA 98102) writes "Requesting submission of handmade (or found) MAPS. What is a MAP? (It could be of your room, your neighborhood, a "time line", graph, chart, diagram, etc., etc.). Size not important; xeroxable medium please. To be compiled & distributed freely."

•**Walk for World Survival '89** is trying to organize several peace march-type walks, the earliest starting from Nova Scotia in March. For more information you can write to 128 Vanauley Walk, Toronto, ONT M5T 2H7, CANADA.

•**What is Lojban? / la lojban mo** is a pamphlet describing the basic ideas behind, structures of, and prospects for the logical language lojban, the latest incarnation of the Loglan project — and the first one that looks likely to build a serious body of speakers. If you're interested in finding out more, send an SASE to The Logical Language Group, Inc., 2904 Beau Ln., Fairfax, VA 22031.

•**Mickey Wheatley** (337 East 8th St., New York, NY 10009) is trying to organize a "Faerie Action Gathering" to take place in New York next June, as an explicit counter to "assimilationist" gays. If this makes sense to you you should probably get in touch.

•**The Wholly Hot Dog — Its History & Proper Preparation & Usage** is a Discordian tract recently translated from the original 16th Century French by the mysterious Roldo. It's available for an SASE from Ol' Sam, 36 Erskine Dr., Morristown, NJ 07960.

•Douglas Hooper is starting work on a **Wiseguy** fanzine, which should be ready "around tax time". For more details contact him at PO Box 540482, Houston, TX 77254-0482.

•**Without Borders** (c/o Bound Together, 1369 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94117) is the name of the 1989 continental anarchist conference & festival (or "gathering", as some would have it). For more information send 'em an SASE.

•**The Women's Amateur Wrestling Association of Howell** (PO Box 18, Howell, NJ 07731) sells photos of young women wrestling, boxing, and otherwise fighting. I've seen some of their stuff and would class it as light cheesecake. $2 will get you on their mailing list.

•**The World Game** is one of Bucky Fuller's brainchildren, a way to explore the prospects of cooperation and rational planning on this spaceship Earth. There's a group that carries on this work, and you can contact them by writing to World Game Projects, Inc., University City Science Center, 3508 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19104.

•**Wortcunning** (2915 1/2 First Ave., Seattle, WA 98121) is a mail-order herbal apothecary. The descriptions of the herbs contain not only botanical but magickal information, for those desiring to use them in a ceremonial fashion. They also carry natural health-care products, essential oils, books, cauldrons and t-shirts. Send $2 for a catalog.

•**X-MAS** ($1.65 from Mike Froerer, 30,000 Hasley Cyn. Rd. #33, Saugus, CA 91384) is Mike's Christmas card for the year, hand bound and with a spraypainted mutant santa on the cover. Inside there's a comic tracing the unexpected effects of giving a gift that keeps on giving.

★★★★★

FACTSHEET FIVE PROJECTS

•I now have available for other publishers a list of distributors and stores who would like to see new zines for possible sale. It provides as many details on what they want and what their terms are as I know. Send me an SASE (be sure to tell me what it's for!) and I'll send you a copy. Currently represented: Art in Form, Blacklist, Flatland, Gulf of Maine Books, Mac's Backs Paperbacks, Memory Hole, Mirilton, Paper Plant, Primal Plunge, See Hear, Greg Smith, Tower, and Wooden Shoe.

•The collected book of Anni Ackner's columns is out at last!. The collection is called **NOBODY LOVES A VISUAL ARTS CRITIC**, and it features all of her writings from FF, as well as four new columns (unavailable elsewhere), an introduction by Elayne Wechsler and graphics by Freddie Baer. At 134 pages, it's even bigger than I expected, and a better value. You can get a copy book rate for $4, or first class for $5.50. 75% of the profits are going to Anni, so I'd really like to sell a lot of these. Think what they'll be worth in twenty years when she's a wealthy mainstream author.

•**FACTSHEET FIVE** T-Shirts, designed by Freddie Baer, are now available for a measley $8.50 postpaid. The only color available is yellow, but it's a yellow that will knock your eyes back into your skull, not some wimpy pastel color. Well, actually, the second edition is a bit wimpier (so you early buyers, you have a collectors' item!), but still beautiful. Specify size or we'll send you whatever we feel like. Think of the possibilities for starting a conversation!

•I now have a new set of **FACTSHEET FIVE** ads available, also typeset and put together by the incomparable Freddie Baer. In the future I may swap or pay for some of these to be published, but meanwhile if you want to give me a free plug write and I'll send you a copy.

•I am still offering the **FACTSHEET FIVE** mailing list on self-adhesive labels. This issue's list of over 2500 names is available for $90. If you prefer, you can get the list on plain paper for $70. I can also provide specialty lists (all fanzines, all distributors, all music zines, all artists, or most anything else you can come up with) for 5¢ a name on labels or 3¢ a name on paper.

•I am also prepared to offer the mailing list or the contents of FF itself (sans art and columns) on IBM-PC compatible DSDD diskettes. The mailing list is archived on one diskette and I'll include the shareware DBMS I use on a second diskette. *You must have a hard disk to access the FF mailing list!* FF itself now only takes up one diskette, since I am only selling the zine reviews on disk. This is because everything else is full of typesetting codes and tough to read. If you are running Borland's new word processor Sprint, though, I can sell you the source files; contact me for a price. You can get the mailing list set for $12, the zine reviews for $6, or all three diskettes for $15.

•If anyone doesn't want their name given out on mailing labels or diskette, please let me know.

•**The Gemstone File** is a conspiratorial mishmash of theories that have been circulating in samisdat form around the US. I have copies of six different versions (something over 90 pages total) available for $9.00 total to those interested in this sort of thing — and I'm looking for more versions if you have any. (See the **Books** section in **FF22** for more precise details on this item. One short variant has been added since that review was written.)

•Martti Koski's **MY LIFE DEPENDS ON YOU**, an account of RCMP mind control experiments, is available for $1.

•The **FF ZINE EXCHANGE** has been a great success this past quarter. Zine Editors: If you're at all interested in having samples of your zine go to people who don't even know you exist, send as many as you want to me to distribute. The rest of you: Send me an SASE with 25¢ to $2.40 postage and I'll stuff it with whatever I have laying about ($2.40 is enough to mail a couple of pounds in the country, so use a decent-sized envelope [10x13 is a good size]: two pounds is about 8 issues of FF, OK?). You might also take note of three similar offers: Merritt Clifton's (**SAMISDAT**, PO Box 129, Richford, VT 05476) standing offer to sell you as many pounds of poetry as you want for $1.50 per pound; Jim Testa's (151 First Ave., Box A., New York, NY 10003) Demo Xchange of band demo tapes, also available for a few dollars postage; and Spoo's (2560 Van Buren St., Eugene, OR 97405) offer of "mysterious surprises" for 50¢ an ounce. Anyhow, remember, send a SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE to minimize the work I have to do. I mean it. The next person who sends a blank envelope and a check, instead of buying the stamps himself and pasting them on, is going to get something nasty in the mail. If he gets anything at all. OK, OK, I'll make an exception for those of you in foreign countries: just send me a check or cash and a self-addressed envelope and I'll do the rest. Those out of the country can supply up to $4.50 worth of postage, since the rates are higher. Those in the country should stop using such obviously glued stamps or I'm going to start pitching your envelopes in the trash. And please be patient; the overflow zines have been displaced to the attic by the archives, and so I only stuff envelopes once every week or two. I take longer when it's cold up there.

•I'm not reviewing hate literature in print any more, to preserve the sensibilities of some of my readers. But I still receive some. If you're interested, send an SASE for the current unpublished reviews.

•I haven't put together the index for this issue, but I expect it to be about a 16-page pamphlet. If you want to see a copy, send me a buck. To get it every issue, you should sign up for a library rate subscription.

•**HOW TO PUBLISH A FANZINE** is my first book, out now from Loompanics. In it I reveal darned near everything I've learned in ten years of small publishing, from production through printing and binding to the mails to promotion and financing. It's 91 pages perfect-bound, published by

Loompanics, but I'll send you a copy of your very own — autographed even — for $6 postpaid if you buy it from me.

★★★★★

GETTING ZINES

Just a few hints to consider when you're writing away for fanzines:

•If I list a name in the address for a zine, you ought to make checks or money orders out to that name rather than the zine name. If a zine has odd payment requirements, I try to note this in the address section of the listing. In general, cash is preferable to money orders which are preferable to checks.

•On a related topic, when I put a question mark after the price it means that I'm guessing because the zine editors didn't list a price.

•On zines with a price under $1, it really helps to include a few stamps for postage. "SASE" means self-addressed stamped envelope: #10 with 25¢ postage unless otherwise specified.

•Canadians generally don't mind receiving U.S. funds, but for other countries you should think about alternative payment. Foreign currency is available at larger banks, and IRCs (International Reply Coupons,which can be exchanged for stamps almost anywhere in the world) at your post office. Foreign MOs are also available from the post office, but can take forever to get.

•"Age Statement" means that you should send along a signed note saying that you're over 18 (or over 21, if you are) to help the publisher avoid legal hassles associated with distributing sexually-explicit material.

•"The Usual" refers to the traditional method of obtaining SF fanzines without sullying oneself with cash. Generally this includes trading other zines, writing locs, contributing articles or art, or being recipient of a whim. These days $1 is often accepted as the equivalent to these more active approaches.

•I'd appreciate it if you'd mention **FACTSHEET FIVE** when ordering zines you saw reviewed here. It helps us all in the long run, as the more credibility I build up the more fine zines I'll be able to bring to your attention.

•If you have any problems with a zine please let me know. I'll be happy to contact publishers in cases of non-receipt. 99% of the time it's just a case of things being lost in the mail.

•If you have time, any zine publisher enjoys hearing comments on the zine he has sent you. This is especially true if you didn't like it; we all like to improve. Even a simple note of thanks can make a publisher's day, though.

•Many zine publishers print small quantities, so you may not be able to get the exact issue that I reviewed. If you **must** have that particular issue, say so, and be prepared to pay extra. Otherwise it's best just to request the most recent or the next issue and save trouble for everyone. And be patient; if the current issue is all gone, it may take a while.

★★★★★

ZINES

Sometimes I get publicity for zines without getting copies of the zines themselves. Here's the news on a few items that I haven't read for myself:

•**ALPHA BEAT SOUP** ($3 from Dave Christy, 5110 Adam St., Montreal, Que. H1V 1W8, CANADA) is a poetry zine with a 60s and 70s flavor.

•**AMERICAN FANTASY** ($16/4 issues from PO Box 41714, Chicago, IL 60641) is billing itself as "The Magazine of Contemporary Fantasy and Horror."

•**CRITICAL WAVE** ($10 from Tom Hanlon, 13833 N. Amiss Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70810-5044) is a British SF newszine that's upgrading to fancier printing and faster distribution.

•**ELECTRONIC COTTAGE** ($2.50 from Harold McGee, PO Box 3637, Apollo Beach, FL 33570) is coming soon as a new zine for cassette culture featuring "articles by the artists themselves — in-depth, personal, intimate self-portraits". Sounds like a winner.

Quality Offset Duplicating
Modest Rates — Individual Service

Sheets up to 10x14", weights from 32# newsprint to 80# cover, printed in one to three colors from camera-ready copy for books, magazines, &c. Typesetting, composition, bindery, and other services also available at affordable rates. Joe M Singer,

Mother of Ashes Press
P.O. Box 135
Harrison ID 83833-0135
[208] 689-3738

Or read **The Printer's Devil** and do-it-yourself for less.
Sample copy on request, exchange appreciated. ☐

•**EROTIC WRITER'S FORUM** ($2.50 from Michael Drax, PO Box 20593, Sun Valley, NV 89433) is a roundtable forum for pro erotica writers *only* (3 or more sales). If that's you, send a one or two page contribution for publication along with your money to get a copy.

•**FANDOM** ($2 from Matt Kanaracus, 273 Babcock St., Box 806, Boston, MA 02215) is a reincarnated news & review zine of small-press comics which has recently changed editors.

•**FRANK** ($7 from Christopher Woods, 2229 Mimosa I, Houston, TX 77019) is "an international journal of contemporary writing and art", whose current issue focuses on fresh voices from New York City and Pakistan.

•**HPV NEWS** ($18/yr from IHPVA, PO Box 51255, Indianapolis, IN 46251-0255) is the newsletter of the International Human Powered Vehicle Association. Subscriptions also include **HUMAN POWER**, a quarterly technical journal.

•**INCOHERENT** ($1.25 from Mitzi Waltz, 1800 Market St. #141, San Francisco, CA 94102) is out with a new issue including part 2 of Mitzi's novel-in-progress and an interview with Tom Jennings.

•**INFORMATION VIRUS MAGAZINE** ($15/6 issues from PO Box 5890, Athens, OH 45701) will be devoted to spreading new information viruses in order to overthrow society from below. Free to contributors of new viruses, or send SASE for the announcement.

1/2LAUGHING MATTERS ($15/4 issues from The Humor Project, 110 Spring St., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866) is a journal of humor, of course, made to perk up dull, annoying lives.

•**NO CONCEPT** ($1.50 from PO Box 14139, Arlington, TX 76094-1139) is a new litmag from the folks who publish **LIL' RHINO GAZETTE**, intending to feature poetry, mailart, short writings, and art.

•**PATHWAYS TO POWER** ($2 from Seekers Press, PO Box 360921, Strongsville, OH 44136) is a new magazine for the discussion of religious beliefs intended to be an open forum for all.

•**PERPETUAL NOTIONS** ($25/yr from PO Box 6298, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677) "is a progressive, 8-page monthly newsletter committed to free speech, human rights, non-violence and preservation of our eco-system".

•**PETITS PROPOS CULINAIRES** ($6.20 from PPC North America, 5311 42nd St. NW, Washington, DC 20015) is a "scholarly and witty international journal on food, cookery, and other culinary matters" published in England.

•**RED DRAGON** (c/o Paul Wright #930783, PO Box 777, Monroe, WA 98272) is a "newsletter of prison news and analysis from a Marxist perspective." It came out until about '84, and a new group of prisoners are preparing to revive it. Write for more details.

•**REVISIONIST LETTERS** ($4 from Bradley R. Smith, PO Box 931089, Los Angeles, CA 90093) is a new forum for historical revisionism. Bradley's done a balanced job of presenting this stuff in the past; he may be able to pull it off again.

•**THE SCOT-IC PAGAN** (£9/8 issues from R. Watson, 16 Glen Kinglass Rd, Greenock, PA16 9NW, SCOTLAND) is "the voice of the pagan in Scotland."

•**SCREAM** ($5/2 yrs from 169 Liberty St., Middletown, CT 06457) is a new "multi-genre magazine of fiction, photography, poetry, and graphics." I don't know if they've put out more than a flyer yet.

•**SMALL PRESS COMICS EXPLOSION** (50¢ from Tim Corrigan, C&T Graphics, 14 E. State St. #1, Mt. Morris, NY 14510), the zine of small comics industry news, is coming back after a long hiatus.

•**TAPESTRY** ($20/12 issues from PO Box 7, Ripley, MS 38663) is a magazine of fantasy and horror poetry and fiction that also includes market notes, contests, interviews and more.

•**THRASHER'S DIGEST** ($1 from 403 Greenbriar Rd., Carterville, IL 62918) is a hardcore zine.

•**THE TRIAL** ($2 from Mark hodges, PO Box 915, Muskegon, MI 49443-0915) is planned to be a Christian underground comic novelette, due out in April.

•**THE TRUMPETER** ($10/yr from Lightstar Press, PO Box 5853, Stn. B, Victoria, BC V8R 6S8, CANADA) bills itself as "Voices from the Canadian Ecophilosophy Network".

•**WEIRD TALES** ($18/6 issues from Terminus Publishing, PO Box 13418, Philadelphia, PA 19101-3418) is back, with all manner of big name horror and fantasy fiction.

•**WYNDCLIFFE WATCH** ($12/yr from May Sutherland, PO Box 7236, Tacoma, WA 98407) is a new Dark Shadows zine and fan club.

THOSE FUNNY NUMBERS

What the little stuff in parentheses after each zine review do is tell you how big the zine is. First comes a letter for the size of the paper, or at least close to it:

A3	A3 size, about 11 1/2 by 16 1/4
A4	A4 size, about 8 1/4 by 11 1/2
A5	A5 size, about 5 3/4 by 8 1/4
D	Digest, 5 1/2 by 8 1/2
HL	Half Legal, 7 by 8 1/2 or 4 1/4 by 14
HS	Half Standard, 4 1/4 by 11
L	Legal, 8 1/2 by 14
M	Mini, 4 1/4 by 5 1/2
MM	Micro, smaller than mini
O	Oversized, larger than tabloid or odd-sized

Q	Quarto, 8 by 10
S	Standard, 8 1/2 by 11
T	Tabloid, usually 11 by 17 on newsprint

Next comes a number, which is the number of pages. Last there may be a suffix: "t" for typeset or laser-printed, or "r" for photo-reduced type.

ADVERTISING

FACTSHEET FIVE advertising space is available as follows:

Full Page	7 1/2 by 9 3/4
Half Page	7 1/2 by 4 3/4
Half Page	3 3/4 by 9 3/4
Quarter Page	3 3/4 by 4 3/4
Eighth Page	3 3/4 by 2 1/4
Business Card	2 1/4 by 2

Copy should be submitted as camera-ready, in the size it is to run. For sizes not on the list, please call me. Current rates are as follows:

Back Cover with Second Color	$160.00
Full Page with Second Color	$140.00
Full Page	$120.00
Half Page	$65.00
Quarter Page	$40.00
Eighth Page	$20.00
Business Card	$10.00

Ads which are paid in advance for two or more insertions may take a 20% discount from the above prices — and are protected from price rises during the life of the ad. As I anticipate having to raise prices again as circulation rises, this is a good deal. If we hit 7500 copies by the end of the year I'll be charging about $180 for a full page. This discount does not apply to business card sized ads. This discount also does not apply to ads with a second color.

Ad space needing a second color, either back cover or interior, should be reserved with me before sending in copy, as this space is obviously limited. Other ads need not reserve space in advance, though you're welcome to do so.

Yeah, I know these ad rates are up again, and they were last raised in #26. But my circulation is up 50% since then, and the rates only about 20%. And I've held the line on business-card ads as best I can, for the benefit of the small publishers I serve. If you can't handle the new rates, call me and I'll see what I can do, OK? But with the smallest ad, you can reach readers for about 1/5¢ each, even without counting the multiple readership of most copies.

Generally, I do not trade advertising with other publishers, though I make *rare* exceptions for those with a large circulation in areas that I don't ordinarily reach.

WAIT! HERE'S THE AEDITORIAL!
FACTSHEET 5
BRENNER

Well, over the next year I expect to put **FACTSHEET FIVE** on a more businesslike footing, as part of my plan to make this my sole source of income. You readers have been amazingly supportive of this plan so far; if good wishes were all I needed, I'd be all set. They sure help anyhow, along with your subscriptions and other orders.

But I want to be very careful that "more businesslike" doesn't turn into "less human". There are people on both ends of this information pipeline, and I want to remain conscious of this. So I've been thinking about what you readers deserve from me. Here's what I've come up with:

•First and foremost, you should get a responsible publisher for your two bucks an issue. This means not only that I will continue to publish on schedule, but that I'll respond promptly to inquiries and letters. I haven't always been good about this in the past, and may not be this spring, since I'm still a "full-time" graduate student until the end of May. But it's a goal to aim for.

•Single issues should always remain available. No package deals that require you to buy things you might not want.

•Reasonable prices. In line with this I'm *dropping* the price for a year's subscription by a small amount. The idea is for me to cover my costs and make a decent living wage, not to get rich at your expense.

•In line with this, you can expect the open financial statements to continue. You've got a right to know I haven't been to Acapulco on your money (unless, of course, they hold a fanzine convention there). Speaking of which, here's how things went down in 1988:

1988 Income: $16,534.67
1988 Expenses: $15,395.36
1988 Profit: $ 1,139.31

I figure that works out to around 43¢ an hour for my time.

•Finally, I'll continue to provide prompt reviews of everything that's sent. Of course "prompt" is relative, and music may take a bit longer to get to than other things, particularly with the cut in reviewing staff we've experienced lately. But the goal is to get everything received by the 20th of the previous month into each issue.

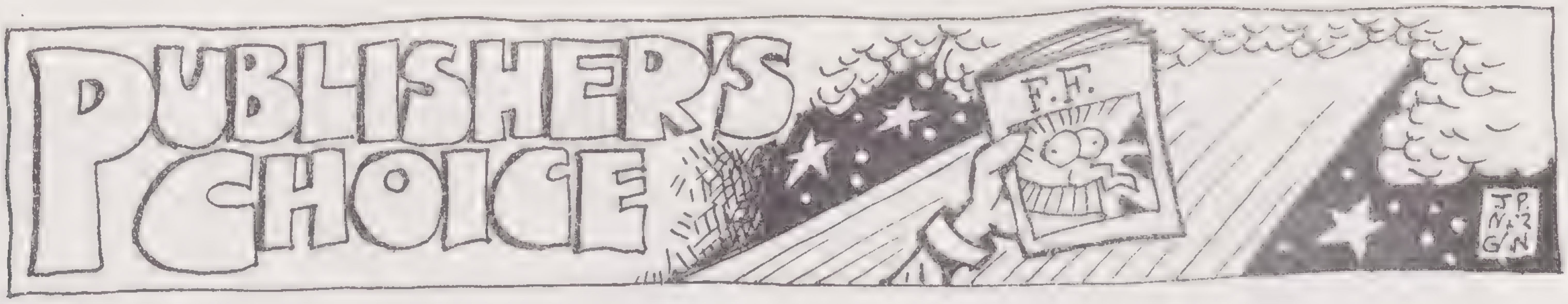
Incidentally, I'll review most anything that comes out independently. In this issue we've got our first software and role-playing game reviews. (On software, we can handle IBM and Mac software pretty easily; other things may take a while). The only reason you don't see something here is becase I didn't get a review copy (or because it's not generally available to the public). I'd review my socks if I thought there was an audience for it.

Finally, a word for you prisoners. Most of your copies are marked as final copies this time around. That's because, thanks to reviews in a couple of places, the prisoners' mailing list has grown substantially over the last quarter, and I want to find out who really wants a copy. So don't think I'm trying to get rid of you — but do remember to drop me a line if you want to stay on the list.

FOR SALE: Heathkit H-89 computer, with H-77 additional disk drive, lots of software and manuals, and a non-functioning printer that might be salvageable. This was my first computer, purchased around ten years ago for about $4000, and until recently it was running the **FACTSHEET FIVE** bulletin board. You can have it all, including a Hayes Smartmodem, for $300, shipping included. It's a cheap way to either set up your own low-grade bulletin board or to get on-line and call other boards. Give me a call if you're interested.

THE NEW CRUCIBLE

A magazine of Man and his environment. $10 for 12 issues - PO Box 7252, Spencer, Iowa 51301-7252.



☆☆☆☆☆

BAD NEWZ #10 ($2.25 from Artists & Writers Underground, c/o Sarris Bookmarketing, 125 E. 23rd St. #300, New York, NY 10010): The best introduction to the underground/alternative/punk culture that there is. **BN** has grown astonishingly since its inception, and these pages are jampacked. Included in this issue are more news on Bob Z.'s harassment by the Sanitation police, Eyewitness reports from the Toronto anarchist gathering (including a Peter Plate interview) and Tompkins Square riots, interviews with Bloodsuckers From Outer Space, TVOR, The Fixtures and many more. There's also letters, poetry, hundreds of reviews (mostly zines but also music) and photos. The combination of humor, resistance, and freshness is worth getting into even if you're not a "punk". (S-68r)

★★★★★

BRAIN DEAD #9 ($2 from John Bergin, 4503 Washington St., Kansas City, MO 64111): This is basically an art zine, but the art is wonderful. John has a vision of the world, dark and strange, filled with sex and crows and the supernatural. Each strip here takes you on a trip to some dark night of the soul — except for those which are so elusive as to take you nowhere, requiring instead intense concentration to salvage any point from. Contributor Joe E. in particular is drawing the comics equivalent of Moorcock's Jerry Cornelius stories, pages rife with meaning but low on connectivity. In addition John and Carol Schutzbank do music reviews, short and snappy, of things that should be better known. Eff and Bolt, Carolyn Bergin, and other underground artists also get their two 'pictures' worth in. (HL-48)

★★★★★

GNOSIS #10 ($5 from Lumen Foundation, PO Box 14217, San Francisco, CA 94114-0217): A magazine for the student of the "Western Inner Traditions", which have received less attention in America in the past few decades than the esoteric lore of the Far East. Editor Jay Kinney & company are gradually correcting this in a series of issues, each organized around a specific theme. In #10, it's Carl Jung, and taking off from there, the contributors come up with a number of exciting articles. Particularly notable are Dennis Stillings' examination of the "Invasion of the Archetypes", looking at some of the enduring myths and obsessions of our times, and Robert Anton Wilson's "Synchronicity, Isomorphism & the Implicate Order: Notes on Jung & Quantum mechanics", dealing with a few of Wilson's own favored obsessions. Mandalas, Jung's occultism, the ego and more are also covered in a nicely open desktop published format. The whole is flanked by letters and reviews of exceedingly obscure books. (S-72t)

☆☆☆☆☆

LAUGHING WHALE #2 (Contact Luke McGuff, PO Box 3680, Minneapolis, MN 55403): Anyone remember **LEVEL** or **AHA**? Well, this is a similar project: a big box full of stuff from members of various zine, art, and other marginal communities in and around Minneapolis. It's an ambitious thing, apparently fueled largely by the insane dedication of Garth Danielson. There are stories here, and poems, and drawings, and a complete art assemblage in a bag ready for you to make, and stickers, and a bit of shower curtain, and a paper sack full of Halloween toys, and a souvenir magnet, and some hand-marbled fabric, and, oh, lots of things. Participants include Joe Hoppe, Erik Kosberg, Karen Trego, Musicmaster, and a dozen or so more. Even the box is decorated, and there's mylar glitter everywhere. Obviously the participants had a lot of fun. Your major problem is getting a copy; this was a limited edition of 50, so your best bet is to find out how to participate in the next one. *My* major problem is to figure out how to archive the damned thing. (8 1/2x11x2)

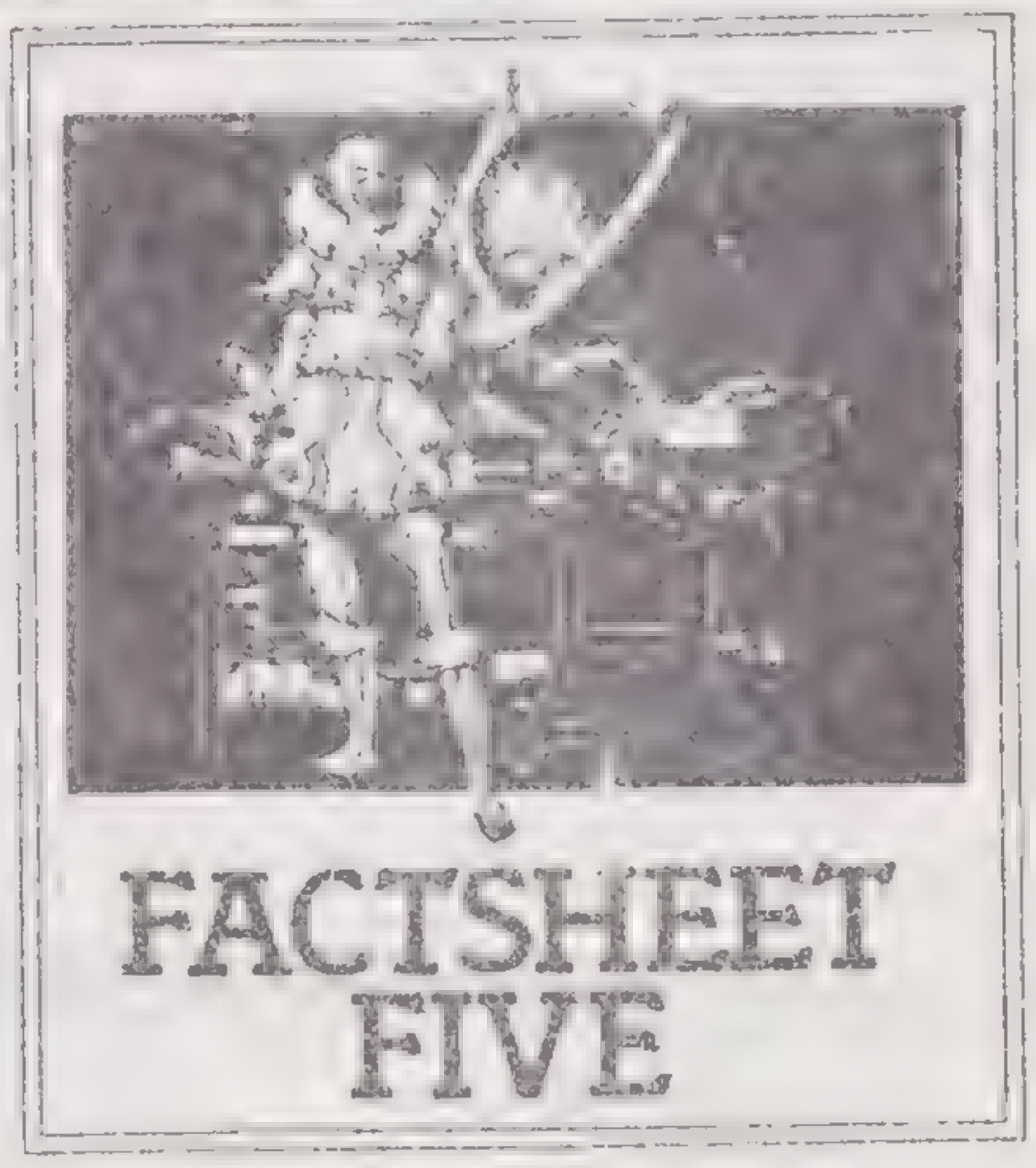
★★★★★

LONELY PLANET UPDATE #28 ($3.95 from Lonely Planet Publications, Embarcadero West, 112 Linden St., Oakland, CA 94607): Lonely Planet publishes guidebooks to most of the world, concentrating on the outback regions of Asia, South America, and Africa. Though the guides are updated every couple of years, we all know things change. The quarterly **UPDATE** takes care of these changes. The nice thing is that it's pretty much reader (i.e. traveller) written. People on their way around the world pause to drop LP a line, and the news gets out: of a cheap place to stay in Tanjung Pinang, of the charges at Pinnewala Elephant Orphanage, or of customs entering Zanzibar. There are also special sections on visas and health, and a column where travellers can ask for help with unusual problems. It's almost enough to make a confirmed stay-at-home like me hit the road. And if I did, the sturdy perfect binding would survive. (D-190t)

☆☆☆☆☆

RENAISSANCE FAN #4 (The Usual from Rosalind Malin and Dick Pilz Jr., 2214 SE 53rd, Portland, OR 97215): It's the looks of this SF fanzine that impress at first glance: hand-colored covers and interior drawings, little stickers, and in this issue a few dried leaves, lovingly glued in. It's obvious that Rosalind spends hours on this customization process, and the results are fabulous. Once you finish gawking, though, the written content holds up as well. The theme of this issue is "fermentation", with articles on wine, beer (including a longish homebrewing account complete with recipes), yogurt, bread, and cheese. Terry Floyd's description of work at a small natural foods company founded by refugees from The Farm is particularly fascinating. There are also short bits of SF and some further notes on the world which the editors are creating to center a future issue on. The press run of **RF** is limited to 150 copies, and mostly available for selected trades and contributions, but there are a few copies left over to be dispersed at the whim of the editors. Try writing a unique and friendly letter, perhaps. (S-27t)

ARE YOU STILL USING
STYLING MOOSE
G. J. BARNES
THAT GREASY KID STUFF?



FACTSHEET FIVE T-shirts are now available for $7.00, plus $1.50 postage and handling! Designed by Freddie Baer, they feature an appropriately enigmatic image of the small press, and come on a brilliant yellow shirt in sizes S-XL.

Inc.
Money
12 GREAT

★★★★★

11X30 Vol. 1 #2 ($1 (?) from Toledo Poets Center, 32 Scott House, the University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606-3390): The title refers to the physical size of this broadside of "poetry, fiction, articles, literary news & gossip". The bulk of this issue is filled by curmudgeonly essays by Howard McCord, who seems to see that civilization is in pretty bad trouble. Excerpts from works in progress by other writers fill out the attractively designed page. (O-1t)

★★★★★

21ST CENTURY BREAKDOWN (50¢ from Bob Z., c/o Sarris Bookmarketing, 125 E. 23rd St. #300, New York, NY 10010): The latest mini-collection of punkture, this time almost all poetry, though of course they stretch the genre a good deal. Most of this is rage at the system or looks at just how crappy it really is. All comes with collaged bizarrities sprinkled in the corners. Contributors include John Eberly, Tom House, and Chris Winkler. (M-24r)

★★★★★

2600 Vol. 5 #3 ($15/yr from PO Box 752, Middle Island, NY 11953): The journal for hackers, phone phreaks, and similar folks. #3 has a nice long article on "Outside loops": that is, all the wiring between you and your phone company, and what fun things you can do with a screwdriver and a lineman's set — for informational purposes only, of course. (D-48t)

★★★★★

8 1/2X11ZINE #5 (Editorial whim from David Thayer, 7209 DeVille Dr., NRH, TX 76180-8257): This is David's personalzine, available in limited supply, but if you promise to write and tell him what you think he might send you a copy. This issue features stories of two summers: 1988 at the beach, and 1970 in Vietnam. David writes engagingly and easily holds this reader's attention. Nice bits of art cheer up the text. (S-10t)

★★★★★

AAARGH! #3 ($2.25 from K. Struck, 87 Waldron, Glen Rock, NJ 07452): Sharp-edged comic work from Jeff Gaither, Mary Fleener, Roy Tompkins and others in the same general artisticC neighborhood. This stuff is sort of art-deco gothic, not entirely representational but filled with gore and snide innuendo. Full of creepy ideas for your nightmares. (S32)

★★★★★

ABIOLYSIST MACROSCOPE #8 ($1 from Mike Perry, PO Box 8511, Riverside, CA 92515): A Mensa SIG journal concerned with "abiolysis", which they define as "death avoidance through scientific means" — primarily cryonics, although lately nanotechnology is being heavily touted in these circles as well. #8 contains a summary of the legal hassles Alcor has faced in the past year, a consideration of whether memory will survive freezing, and various other bits of info. (HL-12t)

★★★★★

ABRASAX #2 ($3.50 from James M. Martin, PO Box 1219, Corpus Christi, TX 78403-1219): A Crowleyan-influenced magazine of magick. This is the "Deities" issue, with notes on folks as diverse as Kalki and Ganymede. There's also a fascinating article on Euhemerism, the belief that Gods are but humans transfigured, and its implications for the modern age, as well as a column on Voudon deities to be added to **LIBER 777**. Well-researched and thoughtful stuff. (S-52)

★★★★★

ABSOLUTELY ZIPPO Nov.-Dec. 1988 (25¢ from 1550 Mann Dr., Pinole, CA 94564): It's taken a while but I'm learning to appreciate this one. It seems to be a response to all too many Bay Area punk music zines that talk about the scene and the system and all that. **AZ** takes a more satirical approach to the same material, with what seem to be phony interviews and columns and a lot of ranting and raving and bad taste. Fun stuff. (D-20)

★★★★★

A CAPPELLA (from Adam Bota, B. Adamski, ul. Dunikowskiego 9A/7, 80-526 Gdansk, POLAND): An anarchist publication that's obviously vigorous even if I can't read most of it (they kindly supplied translations of the titles of articles). I don't know if they can even cash IRCs but they do mention being in need of money so be generous if you can figure out how. They're very interested in international networking as well as grassroots organizing at home. (A4-20r)

★★★★★

ACROSS THE LINES Vol. 1 #1 (Donation from Seeds of Peace, 2440 16th St, #241, San Francisco, CA 94102): Seeds of Peace is a social justice support organization that does things like provide porta-potties for peace marches and food for the Nevada Test Site demonstrators. The newsletter is a great way to find out about upcoming actions, as well as big ideas like the "Peace Army" now being bandied around in some circles. (S-8t)

★★★★★

THE ACTION LINKAGE NETWORKER #24-25 ($30/yr from 5825 Telegraph Ave. #45, Oakland, CA 94609): Action Linkage is a group of folks trying to change the world for the better, and this is one of their central meeting places. It reports on other activities of this far-flung network, in trying to design and debug new paradigms, as well as implement them. #25 reports on a bunch of initiatives in other countries working towards similar goals. (S-8t)

★★★★★

ACTION TIME #6 ($1.50 from Erik Grotz, 15854 Montview Dr., Dumfries, VA 22026): I'm beginning to think there are more bands than music zines by a few orders of magnitude — how else to explain finding out about new ones all the time? This issue it's DC locals MFD, who get interviewed along with Ignition, Dinosaur Jr., and more. Erik also crams in a batch of reviews — records, shows, zines. A good locally-oriented zine. (S-20)

★★★★★

THE ACTS THE SHELFLIFE #2 ($3 (?) from Xexoxial Editions, 1341 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703): A rather imposing little work dedicated to the explication and demonstration of polyartistry, the means by which artistic pioneers cross the artificial boundaries between various disciplines (painting, sculpture, and so on). This is a mix of essays from folks like Bob Grumman, Geof Huth, and Miekal And, together with collaged pieces, concrete poetry, colored drawings, and other visual works. In a better world, it would also speak and dance, but you can't have everything. (HL-64)

★★★★★

ADULT VIDEO NEWS Nov. 1988-Jan. 1989 ($5 from 8600 West Chester Pike #300, Upper Darby, PA 19082): These people do for adult videos what I do for fanzines, only with a lot more (soft-core) color ads. The meat here is the reviews, a few paragraphs long, but there's also extensive industry news, artistic and legal. Special sections cover R-rated and gay videos. The December issue includes much coverage of the recent obscenity law, evaluating its effect on the industry and the likelihood of a suit against its provisions. (S-96t)

★★★★★

AESTHETICIDE #2-3 ($3 from Jody Trezil, PO Box 235, Taylor, MI 48180): A home for "Dangerous Stuff" in the way of literature. Jody want submissions that break the rules or that anger the Establishment. #2 features a strange fantasy romp by Jeff Macy, set in the world after Atlas has dropped it, and "Cruel and Unusual Punishment", a strikingly *different* Christmas story by Andy Serpa. #3 has Detroit media and the Presidential election as major themes for some very bizarre stories, as well as selected quotes from famous people and heavy metal reviews. (S-30)

★★★★★

THE AFFILIATE Oct. 1988-Jan. 1989 ($2 from 4322 Cleroux, Chomedey, Laval, QUE H7T 2E3, CANADA): New to me and a bit different from most is this music zine. Their focus seems to be on letting indie folks get together to swap information on promotion and talk about new performers. They run extensive listings of sympathetic radio stations and zines as well as some feature articles written by subscribers in the business. Lots of color dresses it up considerably, though the non-idiomatic English can be painful in spots. (D-32t)

★★★★★

AFTER HOURS #1 ($4 from 21541 Oakbrook, Mission Viejo, CA 92692): A new "Magazine of Dark Fantasy and Horror". It's an impressive premiere, with stories ranging from an Oriental fantasy by Tanith Lee to a modern tale of motorcycle shapechangers by M. C. Peralta. Miroslaw Lipinski contributes something in a classically shuddery mode, while Anke Kriske's "Compound" brings suspense to a spine-tingling high. These and half a dozen other stories are all presented in a no-frills format, but when the stories are this good, the frills aren't needed. (S-56)

★★★★★

AGENDA Sept.-Nov. 1988 ($15/yr from 202 E. Washington #512, Ann Arbor, MI 48104): "Ann Arbor's Alternative Newsmonthly" continues to provide good left-leaning coverage. Though they do go after some local issues (like the ridiculous rate of rape), they also cover national and international stories. September focused on suppression of free speech at the University of Michigan while the November issue, for example, looks at Mexican politics and pesticides in our produce. (T-12t)

★★★★★

AID & ABET NEWSLETTER #11 ($2 from PO Box 8787, Phoenix, AZ 85066): A meeting ground for Constitutionalists and lawmen. This issue looks at what the "Freemen" of the Constitutionalist movement want, concluding that they're just good folks trying to follow the law. They also examine the case law surrounding driving and come to the conclusion that it's a right, not a privilege, and police should be careful not to violate this right. (S-12t)

★★★★★

AIRGLOW #6 ($1/2 issues or The Usual from T.L. Bohman, PO Box 14, East Thetford, VT 05043-0014): Terry is an EMT (or something along that line), and this issue of his zine is filled with war stories from other folks who drive around in ambulances. Speckled in between are things like calendar reviews, letters from readers, and historical commemorations of important dates in the space age. The writing is solid and interesting, and the topics far enough from the beaten path to be fascinating in places. (S-18)

★★★★★

ALASKA METAPHYSICAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER Oct.-Dec. 1988 ($12/yr from Alaska Metaphysical Council, PO Box 93006, Anchorage, AK 99509-3006): Considering where they are, these folks list an amazing number of New Age and related groups in their monthly directory and calendar. They also publish lots of short articles — World Peace Day and the story of Genesis both get mentioned in November. December includes a pile of stuff on World Healing Day. (S-14r)

★★★★★

ALERT! Vol. 6 #6-9 ($15/yr from CISPES, PO Box 12056, Washington, DC 20005): The newspaper of the Committee In Solidarity with the People of El Salvador — you know, those folks the Reagan administration tried to suppress via the FBI. That's a pretty good indication that their news coverage from Central america is worth reading, though of course they make no bones about being in favor of one side in the struggles in El Salvador and Nicaragua. Firsthand reports tell the story as only the sufferings of real people can. #9 features coverage of the October Pentagon Blockade that doesn't even mention the militant anarchist presence. (T-12t)

★★★★★

ALIVE AND DIRECT #1-2 ($1 from Pete Reilly, 20 Worths Mill Ln., Princeton, NJ 08540): A new entry in the skatezine field. Apart from the short interview with Violent Side, #1 is pretty much all photos. #2 expands to record reviews, opinion pieces, and zine reviews, with the photos being divided between bands and skateboards. Photo quality is poor in #1, better in #2. (D-24)

★★★★★

ALL ABOUT BEER Vol. 9 #3-4 ($13/6 issues from PO Box 15690, Santa Ana, CA 92705-0690): A large and impressive publication for the dedicated beer drinker. They feature articles on breweries, beer-related events, collectibles, and yes, even beer reviews. There's also a column on homebrewing and a selection of restaurant reviews. #4 even includes features on British and Brazilian brewing. (S-48t)

★★★★★

ALLESS IN WASTELAND (99¢ from Jane Poe, 991 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94105): "13 Short Tyme Pieces" of rather confusing surreal fiction. There are echoes of Carroll's **ALICE** here, along with paganism, Burroughsian confusion, and general hoo-hah. Layers of meaning await the courageous spelunker. (D-32)

★★★★★

ALLEY OOP #3-4 (NZ$2 from Box 5164, Dunedin, NEW ZEALAND): Probably you should add a couple of bucks to that for shipping, or write first. This is a music zine from NZ, where of course a lot of popular groups are playing these days. They do have a lot of coverage of Flying Nun label faves, but there's a lot more happening down there than that. #4 includes stories or reviews on Headless Chickens, Verlaines, Pere Ubu, Miles Davis, the Shamen, and lots more. (S-24)

★★★★★

THE ALTERED STATE Vol. 5 #2 (Donation from Laura Secor, 525 W. Prospect Ave., State College, PA 16801):A high-school underground paper with a wide variety of articles. These range from sheer humor (a criticism of literary criticism with wildly overblown interpretations) to serious (commentary on a "Just Say No" assembly). They thrown in a nice proportion of art, some poems, and even some surprise reprints from the long-lost **UNDERGROUND PONY EXPRESS**. (S-24t)

★★★★★

ALTERNATIVE PRESS Nov.-Dec. 1988 ($19.95/yr from 2820 Mayfield Rd. #303, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118): A very spacious music tabloid, with pages bigger than my bathroom rug. They get a lot into this space, with stories on Sonic Youth, The Church, Diamanda Galas, Lydia Lunch, and more, all in the November issue. Cover kids Front 242 even get a promo sticker included, while there are lots of record reviews, and pages for jazz and blues. December ranges from Siouxsie to Metallica. Something for many here, and a lot of it. (T-34t)

★★★★★

ALTERNATIVES Vol. 15 #3 ($20/4 issues from Faculty of Environmental Studies, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ONT N2L 3G1, CANADA): "Canada's Environmental Quarterly", this is a respectably academic look at the problems of civilization and wilderness. #3, indeed, focuses directly on wilderness areas, looking at what might work in reconciling their existence with our growth, and noting ironically that tourism is as much a threat as logging in some areas. Lots of international news here and a good level of sustained analysis. #4 is on "Protestors and Ideologues", and features an analysis of the linguistic battle surrounding harp seal hunting and an attempt at a synthesis between deep ecology and radical ecology which unfortunately skirts the real problems with the former. (S-72t)

★★★★★

THE AMALTHEAN HORN Vol. 3 #1-3 ($15/12 issues from PO Box 5511, Pasadena, CA 91107): Pretty basic pagan zine that seems aimed mostly at building a stronger community in Southern California. To that end they run a calendar of events and a number of basic articles in every issue. #2 argues for helping the Christians and other concerned citizens stamp out Satanism, to impress on them the difference between that and Wicca. (S-16t)

★★★★★

AMARILLO ADVOCATE Vol. 2 #5 ($5/yr from The Peace Farm, HCR 2 Box 25, Panhandle, TX 79068): These folks are interested in a broad array of social justice issues. Because of their location, the Pantex nuke-processing plant is uppermost in their minds, and they do weekly observance and protest actions there. But they're also involved in protesting other aspects of the arms race, the war in Central America, and similar things. (S-24r)

★★★★★

AMBIENT STORMTROOPER REVUE Vol. 1 #3 ($2 (?) from Dumb Artists Collective, 172 Chestnut St. #209, Springfield, MA 01103): This came stuffed with a handful of photocopied pamphlets in the same vein, plus a photo and a strip of movie film. Much of it seems directed at idolizing, or at least publicizing, mass murderers, revolutionaries, mental patients and other people off the edge. There are some downer collages, some psychotic-looking writing, and very little explanation of what's going on, other than strokes for sleaze junkies. (S-26)

★★★★★

AMERICAN FORUM Vol. 4 #34-46 ($4.95/6 months from 971 Van Duzer St., Staten Island, NY 10304): The "Homo Patrol" comic is still filling half of most issues of this frequent broadside. On the back, you can find short poems, more comics, reviews, and silly ads. Paul Weinman's "White Boy" poems have also become a staple lately. The reviews are the most prominent part of recent issues and venture into somewhat kinky areas quite often, with fan clubs and movies being the order of the day. (S-2)

★★★★★

AMERICAN INDIAN DEFENSE NEWS Vol. 3 #4 (50¢ from PO Box 5129, New Bern, NC 28561): A Native American publication formed by a splinter group from the American Indian Movement "because of AIM leadership accepting money from Communist front groups." Though they say their main purpose is to help Native American programs and groups, the content is mainly stories reprinted from other sources and advertising. (S-4t)

★★★★★

AMERICAN LIBERTARIAN Vol. 3 #4-6 ($2 from 21715 Park Brook Dr., Katy, TX 77450): A newspaper for Libertarians that does a pretty good job of covering the diversity of that movement. #4 was the pre-election issue, with ridiculously optimistic vote total projections from various Libertarian bigwigs. #5 then follows up with extensive analysis of the election results, with the Libertarians getting only a bit over 400,000 votes. #6 looks to wider shores, with a report on the recent Libertarian International conference in Swaziland. (T-8t)

★★★★★

AMERICAN LIVERPOOL Vol. 4 #2 ($1 (?) from 190 Fingerboard Rd., Staten Island, NY 10305): Coverage of the Staten Island scene, centered on music but spreading more widely to include a museum review, alternative cable listings, and some poetry. The musicians seem to focus mainly on techniques, from MIDI to correct adjustments of analog equipment — but of course they talk about their music too. Featured in this issue are The Wait, Deo Geo, and Gray Zone. (S-24t)

★★★★★

THE AMERICAN RATIONALIST Sept./Oct.-Nov./Dec. 1988 ($1 from PO Box 994, St. Louis, MO 63188): This journal of atheism and other varieties of free thought has been going for over three decades now, and they're still gleefully taking potshots at religion. In the September issue, George Rowell argues that a fundamentally new strategy is needed in this struggle, starting with the abolition of Sunday school and other early religious training. In December, J.D. Bell lists 34 steps we'd have to take to live in accordance with the literal word of the Bible, with the idea of showing that no one would want to. (S-16t)

★★★★★

AMERICAN RECONSTRUCTIONIST fall 1988 (Donation from PO Box 3418, Iowa City, IA 52244): A newsletter from the folks who put out the tract "Let's Legalize the Murder of Wives". They take a generally humorous approach to their mission of preserving the one true religion against all us blasphemers and pantheists. It's almost more chilling than the Fundie ranters and ravers, as this guy can actually write and think. (S-6)

★★★★★

AMERICAN WINDOW CLEANER #13 ($35/6 issues from PO Box 5653, Berkeley, CA 94705-9945): Lots of advice and ideas for the small window-cleaning company. Catch up on the latest equipment, learn about cleaning plastic skylights, or investigate the Guiness Book rules for squeegee competition in this issue. Or just dream about owning a business that lets you hang over the edge of buildings in a bosun's chair. (S-24t)

★★★★★

AMIGA BITCHES Vol. 1 #7-9 (25¢ & a stamp from Bill Sorenson, 1415 Wisconsin St., LeClaire, IA 52753): A small homegrown newsletter for owners of Amiga computers. Bill and his occasional staff talk about new software and hardware from a user's standpoint, trying to point out flaws and foibles as well as assign praise when due. There's also some speculations on things that would be possible with enough time & money. (S-7t)

★★★★★

ANALYSIS Nov.-Dec. 1988 ($10/yr from Philadelphia Objectivist Association, PO Box 454, Springhouse, PA 19477): Formerly POA, this is still a place for objectivists (loosely speaking, followers of Ayn Rand), egoists, and like-minded individuals to gather and debate. The November issue includes discussion of the ethics of using Nazi research results and thoughts on the morality of voting. December has an apologetic for the industrial revolution and more on Barbara Branden's book about Rand. (S-6t)

★★★★★

ANARCHY #17 ($1.50 from C.A.L., PO Box 1446, Columbia, MO 65205-1446): An anarchist tabloid that is doing a good job in at least two areas: reviewing the anarchist press and movement, and debating over the place of spirituality and religion for anarchists. There's also John Zerzan on Luddism, stuff on recent Earth First! activities attended by one of the magazine's principals, and lots of letters. Growing in size and interest. (T-32t)

★★★★★

ANCESTRAL FAITH Vol. 1 #4 ($20/4 issues from Colorado Kindred of Asatru, PO Box 12317, Alcott Stn., Denver, CO 80212): A journal helping to link together a number of groups of believers in Asatru, the pre-Christian Northern European religion. This issue feels more like part of a network than ever, reprinting articles from like-minded journals as well as presenting original work. The contents range from a simple explanation of "why believe" to esoteric thoughts on the philosophical roots of Asatru. (S-31t)

★★★★★

THE ANCIENT ARTS #7 ($3.50 from Castle Rising, PO Box 1424, Cumberland, MD 21502): These folks have recently moved their magical activities from Colorado to the Alleghenys, in preparation for opening a Temple and Retreat. Meanwhile, they write of the philosophy of ritual, the danger of modern witch hunts, and herbalism. The move includes a new spiral-bound format for AA which is quite attractive. (S-28)

★★★★★

ANGOLA UPDATE Vol. 2 #2 ($1 (?) from Fenton Communications, 1755 S St. NW, Washington, DC 20009): News about the government of Angola and its heroic efforts to resist foreign mercenaries backed by South Africa and the United States. Inasmuch as the current government is paying for this, it's not intended to be a balanced presentation. Still, so few Americans know anything about the area that more news of whatever bias can scarcely hurt. (S-6t)

★★★★★

ANICHTI POLI #17 (IRCs from Poulopoulou 45, GR-11851, Athens, GREECE: A mix of countercultural and antiauthoritarian stuff. #17 includes Baboon Dooley, Henry Rollins, Cyberpunk, situationists, and lots more. All in Greek, by the way, which makes it hard for me to do a more in-depth review. Their graphics are certainly exuberant, though, and the zine *looks* well-done. (A4-32)

★★★★★

THE ANIMALS' AGENDA Nov. 1988-Jan. 1989 ($18/10 issues from PO Box 6809, Syracuse, NY 13217-9953): A wide-ranging animal rights slick, that isn't always as hardcore as some but is consistently informative — perhaps overly so, as wading through all the instances of cruelty each month can be overwhelming. But there's also hopeful news from folks like Paul Watson of Sea Shepherd, as well as feature articles — hunting is the focus of the November issue, for example. The December issue covers everything from the latest ALF raids to the possibility of cruelty-free health care, while January ranges from pigs to pit bulls. (S-64t)

★★★★★

ANTHONY M. EGAN NEWSLETTER #13 (Donation from Anthony M. Egan, 612 E. 14th St. #17F, New York, NY 10009): A collection of clippings and short articles in the general paranormal and magical area. Jackie Gleason's interest in UFOs, the mystical powers of "Abracadabra", Edgar Cayce's work and the Chinese calendar are among the topics in this issue. Anthony also discusses the zines he gets in the mail on like topics. (S-8)

★★★★★

ANTI-SOCIAL FOR THE DISABLED ($1.85 from Tom Roberts, 333 S. East Ave. #209, Oak Park, IL 60302): A comic by and about, but not necessarily for, the disabled. Parts of it read like a cruel joke, but it's all meant in fun, and it shows a healthy capacity to laugh at oneself on the part of the artists. On the other hand, a lot of readers are going to feel guilty for laughing at things like "Party Jokes for the Disabled" and the ultra-satirical "Public Service Announcement". There's a lesson lurking here, but I'm not sure what it is. (S-20)

★★★★★

APA-5 #184-186 ($5 from Sheila Wilding 17645 Via Sereno, Mount Sereno, CA 95030): An amateur press association that seems dedicated to creative activity. That is, there's a lot of art and comics here and a few bits of fiction, as well as the usual apa banter. A number of the members are very dedicated, with Robin Rede having contributed nearly 2000 pages in total. Moderately feisty but still a community. (S-149)

★★★★★

APA-EROS #15 ($2 from John & Kathe Burt, 960 SW Jefferson Ave., Corvallis, OR 97333): After a pair of cross-country moves, this forum for discussion of sex, erotica, relationships, and related topics is still going strong. The readers contribute the contents, and they range from discussion of kiddie porn entrapment schemes to fantasy-filled writing to book reviews to poetry. (S-8r)

★★★★★

APA-LAMBDA #45 ($2 or so from Kathleen Madigan, PO Box 1006, Elgin, IL 60121-1006): An amateur press association on the sexually-alternative front, mainly for gay, lesbian and bisexual people though I don't know that they'd bar straights or neuters. Coming mainly out of SF fandom, the folks here have interestes ranging from D&D to fiction to you-name-it, and lots of news gets passed around. A support group in print as well as a place to sort out one's own opinions. Please note: they won't mail to correctional facilities or state hospitals. (S-75)

★★★★★

THE APA MASTER FILE ($1 (?) from Tim Gatewood, PO Box 12921, Memphis, TN 38182-0921): An attempt to provide a complete index of amateur press associations, mainly in science fiction fandom but also including a few others. Tim lists more apas than I do, but his information is more out-of-date and in some cases plain wrong. This should get fixed in a few editions, though, so I'd urge people interested in joining these things to get in touch with him. (S-12)

★★★★★

APA-TAROT #35-37 ($2 or so from Sheila Wilding, 17645 Via Sereno, Monte Sereno, CA 95030): An apa devoted to discussion and reproduction of Tarot cards. The interests vary from just collecting to steady use, and various members go off on esoteric tangents in every issue. The discussion is for the most part relatively focused. #36 features a full-color page from BJ Laurie, a rarity in apadom. (S-99)

★★★★★

THE ARIZONA ATHEIST Dec. 1988 ($10/yr from American Atheists, PO Box 36192, Tucson, AZ 85740): Co-edited by Ivana O. Martin and Fred Woodworth, this newsletter shows the latter's distinctive graphic style. Contents are a bit slim, consisting mostly of book reviews, though the "This Month In Religious History" column was good for a laugh. But it appears that the local atheists are entering a period of increased activity, and there are plans to convert from a newsletter for a magazine soon. (S-8t)

★★★★★

ARMED CITIZEN NEWS #197 ($10/yr from PO Box 78336, Seattle, WA 98178): A grassroots newspaper for those interested in protecting their second amendment rights to own guns. There's a lot of editorial matter here, some news about handgun control efforts, and suggestions on how to keep up the fight. ACN also features a large networking section for other similarly-inclined groups. (T-12t)

★★★★★

THE ARROW #6 ($1 (?) from Mackay Society, PO Box 131, Ansonia Stn., New York, NY 10023): An occasional anarchist digest. This special issue came out right at the start of November, and is a collection of anti-voting texts. Included are works from Chodorov, Mirbeau, and APE, as well as some shorter quotations. (D-8r)

★★★★★

ARTIFICIAL INSANITY #3 ($1.50 from 348 Richmond Ave., Blackwood, NJ 08012): A rather opinionated punk fanzine, coming out in favor of straightedge and against the white supremecist bands, for example. Mostly it's a collection of good interviews, including Token Entry, Turning Point, Breakdown and a couple of others in this issue. The photos need some work, but the words are worth it anyhow. (S-24)

★★★★★

ARTIST IN A BOX (50¢ from Liam Brooks, 11439 A. Ptarmigan Dr., Austin, TX 78758): A minicomic that serves as a metaphor for the life of the artist (or for that matter, the writer) who is content to create a new world while ignoring this one. Short and snappy. (M-8)

★★★★★

THE ARTISTS' BOOKS IN EUROPEAN VIEW: THE SOUL OF BOOKS OR THE THIRD GENERATION? (from Geza Perneczky, Gr. Witschg 3-5, 5000 Koln-1, WEST GERMANY): A scholarly essay on one aspect of mail art: the manufacture and display of curious book-like works. This is well-done, with bibliographic apparatus, lots of photos, and even some sensible conclusions. No price is evident, so swapping your own works is probably recommended. (A4-32)

★★★★★

THE ART OF EATING #9 ($22/4 issues from HCR 30, Box 3, Peacham, VT 05862): A quarterly newsletter structured around food. Though editor Edward Behr does offer some recipes (Rote Grutze and Cod Cakes in this issue, for example), he mainly offers essays. These range from a look at the history and current status of the tomato to the sociology and land of Northeastern Vermont. Quite pleasant writing. (S-12t)

★★★★★

ARTPAPER Vol. 8 #1-5 ($18/yr from VAIS, 119 N. 4th St., Minneapolis, MN 55401): A paper about art and politics with a classy look and feel. The politics is implied in their criticism. That is to say, they don't cover elections or that sort of thing, but do review a display about solid waste recycling in #1. There's also a rumination on the new city sculpture garden that makes some points about the ontology of public gardens, somewhat disjointed coverage of a Butthole Surfers show, and book and film reviews, plus a calendar of local events. #5 homes in on the year 2000, as well as some current events. (T-32t)

★★★★★

ARTPOLICE Vol. 15 #3 ($2.50 from 3131 First Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408-3136): Disturbing and often disgusting artworks. Much of this content could be called pornographic if the intent were to excite, but that's not the case. If anything the nudity is here to shock, along with the pain and violence. The **ARTPOLICE** crew is exploring dangerous artistic territory, demanding the freedom to portray what they will, whatever it may be. (S-20)

★★★★★

AS IS #21 ($1 "cash or postage" from John Webster, PO Box 60254, Oklahoma City, OK 73146): This is centered around punk music but also punk culture, as there are bits of short story and poetic and artistic content as well. In fact, the story of the runaway kid is probably real, in which case it's real scary. Main feature in this issue is a lengthy interview with the Fixtures, who are trying hard to make it in LA. (S-16r)

★★★★★

ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO FREE #6 ($1.50 from Newt, 131 Lakeway Dr., Oxford, MS 38655): Judging from the fact that most of their live reviews are for shows in Memphis and the interviews are mainly by mail, it looks like Mississippi is not exactly a hotbed of new music. Nevertheless, they're trying hard, with a few pages of record reviews and brief chats with Underdog and Death Angel, among others. Also some hardcore anti-Bush stuff in this issue. (S-23)

★★★★★

ASSEMBLY REQUIRED June/July ($1 from Rich Assembly, 42270 Lima Hall, Bermuda Dunes, CA 92201-8152): A bizarre look at punk life in the deserts of California. This time Rich tells us about a road trip to see the Dickies play in Hollywood, and continues the saga of his run-in with the secret service. Interesting stuff. Oh yeah, he's also after all sorts of Dickies rarities, so write if you have anything to sell. (S-6)

★★★★★

ASTRAL #3-4 (25¢& a stamp from Steve Shotwell, 38 Park Timbers, New Orleans, LA 70131): The story of James, a teenager off in his astral body, continues in this minicomic. In these issues James finds his missing physical body as well as a new ally to help him get it back, but things do not get any less complicated for him. (M-8)

★★★★★

ASTROLOGY AND PSYCHIC NEWS Vol. LXVI #16 ($2 from Califronia Astrology Association, PO Box 810, North Hollywood, CA 91603): Scam city. Short tabloid-quality articles ("Nebraska Couple Hears Chirping From Hard Boiled Egg: Experts Say Spirit of Chick is Trapped Inside") are used as filler between ads for people who want you to spend lots of money so they can use their psychic powers on your behalf. Don't say I didn't warn you. (T-24t)

★★★★★

ASYLUM Vol.4 #3 ($10/4 issues from Greg Boyd, PO Box 3307, Greensboro, NC 27402): A collection of stories and poems that manage to be experimental while still retaining most of the trappings of normal writing, by taking a different tack at the world. Thomas Wiloch's poem "Three Unsighted Rodents", for example, is a synonymous transformation of a nursery rhyme that somehow comes out very intriguing. Thomas Kennedy's "The Wasp, The Ant, The Fly" is perhaps the first story I've ever seen told from an insect's point of view. There are many other high-quality contributions here as well in similar though different veins. (D-57t)

★★★★★

THE ATROCITY Vol. 12 #11-Vol. 13 #1 ($8/12 issues from Hank Roll, 2419 Greensburg Pike, Pittsburgh, PA 15221): A newsletter of disgusting humor from various perverse members of MENSA. I would admit that some of this is pretty funny, but that would definitely be politically incorrect. #12 is a special prolix issue, with lengthy letters and other written work and little visual content. #1 features a map of subscriber locations, something that would be fun to see in more zines. (S-16)

★★★★★

ATTITUDES OF CONTRADICTION #7 ($1 (?) from Analen Villar, PO Box 187, North Hollywood, CA 91603): This zine has a hardcore look but it's a bit wider than that. Analen is publishing to communicate and mostly wants to hear from readers who will actually write. Surely you can find something to write about here: interviews with Geko and The Fixtures, thoughts on animal exploitation and food irradiation, and a pile of record reviews. Nicely chatty. (D-32)

★★★★★

AUDION #10 (£2.20/2 issues from Steven Freeman, PO Box 225, Leicester, LE2 1DX, ENGLAND): Billing itself as "The New-Music Magazine", this offers good coverage of many experimental, New Age, and synthesizer-based musicians, with some focus on Europe but plenty of range. Nurse With Wound, Gen Ken Montgomery, Eberhard Weber and Keeler are among the names I recognize here, but there are a great many more I've never heard. Solid writing does a good job of putting things in context. (A4-32r)

★★★★★

AUSTIN DUCKWEED ($1 from PO Box 2640, Austin, TX 78768): A new forum for rather strange writing. The lead editorial was written by a duck, and another piece by a typewriter. Then there are the human-created pieces, of which Stanley's "Just Say Yes" sticks in my mind for its total deterioration into besottlement. (S-12t)

★★★★★

BABEL #11 ($1 from Glenn Wilkins, 605 13th St., Knoxville, TN 37916): A photocopy art zine produced by a co-operative including Russell Williams, Eric Jantz and William Douglas as well as Glenn. They've explored a great many ways to use the copy machine, from working on transparent paper to attacking the final images with scissors and tape to producing artworks just to be copied. A nice examination of the potentialities of the medium. (S-20)

★★★★★

BABYFISH LOST ITS MOMMA #2 ($4 from PO Box 11589, Detroit, MI 48211): A wild collage of the counterculture, the next best thing to being there. Inside are protests from the nominating conventions to Nevada, music from the Grateful Dead to MDC (with a special history of the Layabouts), verse and prose, animal rights and veganism, "Sex and Sabotage", stopping the Detroit incinerator, parties in the Cass Corridor, and lots more. A spirit of rebellion animates it all, from the hand-colored cover to the ending ecological collage. (S-160)

★★★★★

BABY SUE Vol. 2 #1 ($1.50 from PO Box 1111, Decatur, GA 30031): A thoroughly disgusting comic. The lead character argues with her character, spews verbal filth, shoots her own children, and otherwise behaves downright poorly. Other features include nasty poetry and a selection of real-life Barbie Doll ideas. (HL-16)

★★★★★

BACKLASH June/July-Nov. 1988 ($1 (?) from 4128 Fremont Ave. N, Seattle, WA 98103): Coverage of the Seattle music scene, which means a lot more garage bands than superstars. There's a lot less fluff and more news here than in most free tabloids, though, and even a feature article or two. The August issue, for example, discusses the demise of all-ages shows due to booze and politics. With the November issue they've gone monthly and added cassette reviews. (T-12t)

★★★★★

THE BAG #23 (SASE & a personal note from 28313 58th Ave., PawPaw, MI 49079): The editor wants to communicate so if you don't do so your envelope might well come back empty. If not, you'll see some of his master plan for storming the gates of fame in this issue, as well as personal notes about drinking and making rude remarks, collaged flashes of interest, subliminal messages, and a dose of subculture. (S-4r)

★★★★★

BANANAFISH #3 ($3 from Seymour Glass, PO Box 3255, Berkeley, CA 94703): No one will accuse Seymour of being overly organized in this mostly-music mag. The letter column leads off, soon degenerating into unlabelled rants, warnings from selective Service, and commentary on the previous issue. Interviews follow, with Tragic Mulatto and Caroliner being wonderful extended romps through the underside of art. Finally, it's all wrapped up by stream-of-consciousness record reviews. A musical tour through some very strange audio indeed. (HL-72t)

★★★★★

BANG! #18 ($1 from Rocco Cipollone, 77 Newbern Ave., Medford, MA 02155): Despite the continued eclectics music coverage (Band of Susans, Savage Republic, Wild Seeds, PIL are among those in this issue), this one is starting to seem a bit tired. Maybe it's the pinup and bondage photos and movie posters used as space filler,or the dull printing on this issue. In any case, I'm sure it will bounce back soon, since the idea of doing stories plus interviews rather than all of one or the other is a good one. (S-26r)

★★★★★

BARBED WIRE CANOE #6 (75¢ & a stamp from Karl Anderson, 323 Locust Rd., Winnetka, IL 60093-3610): Multifarious creativity now enhanced by pages printed in multiple colors. There's a lot of interesting poetry and art here, but the strongest kick in the teeth is Karl's own essay "Qarl Infiltrates the Shrink Nest" — it seems his parents had him committed for a few weeks. I certainly hope he survives long enough to get the heck away from home. (S-22)

★★★★★

BARSTOW UNIVERSE #1-3 ($1 from Robin Reed, PO Box 1803, Manchester, NH 06040): Somewhat crude but really funny comics. Robin has some good ideas and in three issues they're starting to develop. The lead alien, Xanthan Gum, is sort of forgettable, but Larry the Dinosaur and Brick Mason, God of Architecture, are both fresh presences in the comics. Lots of nasty little ads making fun of other people's products, too. (D-16)

★★★★★

BASEBALL DIARY Vol. VII #8 ($15/season from William Fuller, 3042 6th ave., Sacramento, CA 95817): A zine that revolves around baseball, though William allows a wide interpretation. Some folks do stories about the games and teams. Others write of their lives as fans. Still others treat the game as a springboard or metaphor for life in general, as with Mary Leary's "Hearsay" column on the election. It's all put together in a nice graphic layout with astounding collage covers. This is the last issue for the season, but they'll be back when Spring Training rolls around. (S-12t)

★★★★★

BASIC M Vol. 1 #4-5 (Contact PO Box 16898, San Diego, CA 92116): There's been a lot of brouhaha within American Mensa lately, with a big political flap and power struggle involved. Now a bunch of members have seceeded and formed a new group for the top 2% of IQ's in the country, and this is it. They're still in the process of organizing, but already they're putting out this newsletter with puzzles, book reviews, and whatnot, as well as stuff related to the breakdown in Mensa. (S-20r)

★★★★★

THE BASIC TEACHER #4-5 ($3 from 2814-19th St., San Francisco, CA 94110): Aimed mostly at elementary school teachers, but written on a level for the kids to understand, this is an introduction to the computer language BASIC. They've been adding a few more keywords and concepts every issue, until by now those who've been following along should be moderately competent in either Microsoft Basic or Quickbasic. (S-24t)

★★★★★

BEAUTIFUL WORLD Winter 1988-89 ($1.50 *[No Trades]* from D. David, PO Box 1675, Old Chelsea Stn., New York, NY 10011): A zine that revolves around the group Devo, though the orbit gets pretty far out sometimes. Bringing us information on the spudboys is first priority, but keeping track of the rest of the wiggly world is a close second. Other interests here include SubGenius, supermarket tabloids, Flaming Carrot comics, and so on. (D-24r)

★★★★★

BEFORE THE FALL #6 ($1 from Kemal, 2605 Cranberry Cir., harrisburg, PA 17110): Formerly **SLIME SHEET**, this is a small zine with not a lot in it, but what there is is presented well. Interviews with Amenity, Leeway, Soulside and others don't get too deep, but the photos are good and the basic ideas clear. Also includes a smattering of letters and zine reviews. (D-20r)

★★★★★

BEGGARS BANQUET Vol. 2 #15 ($10/yr from PO Box 6152, New York, NY 10128): The tenth anniversary issue of this fanzine all about the Rolling Stones (the musical group, not the SF story). Editor Bill German has obviously gotten to know the group rather well, and this is a mix of nostalgia and current news. The latter includes progress on a reunion and an interview with Keith Richards about his solo album. (S-12)

★★★★★

BEN IS DEAD #2 ($1 (?) from PO Box 3166, Hollywood, CA 90028): Looks like this is a freebie locally but I'm sure they'll think of a subscription price sooner or later. It seems to focus on music as personified in the L.A. club scene, with nasty phone messages from people who think they go to the wrong clubs. Interviews this time include Bad Religion and Sandy Duncan's Eye, who claim to be L.A.'s most hated band. (S-24t)

★★★★★

THE BEYOND WITHIN #2 ($2 from Scott Williams, 1326 Curtis Ave., Pt. Pleasant, NJ 08742): A black-and-white comic with a pretty gruesome look to it. There are lots of zombiefolk here, though what they're doing isn't always clear. The protagonist has some sort of strange psychic powers. He starts off by destroying all the people on earth, and goes on from there. (S-16)

★★★★★

BIBLE-SCIENCE NEWSLETTER Vol. 26 #10-11 ($1.50 from 2911 E. 42nd St., Minneapolis, MN 55406): A tabloid from folks dedicated to upholding Biblical science against those nasty evolutionists. Unfortunately they seem to be pretty far out on the fringe — #10, for example, announces the discovery of the luminiferous ether, which would make all the papers if true. #11 does a real hack job on Stephen Jay Gould's latest book, demonstrating a complete lack of understanding of natural selection. There's also plenty of stuff on how to preserve faith in the face of disbelief. (T-16t)

★★★★★

THE BIG RED RAG Vol. 2 #1 (SASE from Gordon Edgar, 108 Schuyler Pl. Ithaca, NY 14850): One of the more impressive progressive student publications I've seen. Their interests range from a discussion of possible racism in the local Take Back the Night marches (with an invited reply from the organizers) to West German feminists being tried as terrorists, to divestment to the politics of HIV testing. Much is picked up from other news sources, but those sources are frequently not available to students, so it's not redundant. (T-16t)

★★★★★

THE BIG TAKEOVER #25 ($1.75 from Jack Rabid, 241 Eldridge St. #14, New York, NY 10002): Jack's back with another issue of his mammoth music zine. We've been arguing about which one of us works harder, but in any case, there are more pages of show reviews and record reviews here than I could ever write. Jack also interviews Howard Devoto, Greg Sage and T.V. Smith, publishes a ton of mail, and generally has a good time writing about good indie music. (S-80r)

★★★★★

BITCH #23 ($2 from San Jose Face, 478 W. Hamilton Ave. #164, Campbell, CA 95008): A magazine of women in music, ranging widely but centered in rock. #23 includes a long interview with Lydia Lunch and another with Joy of Cooking, as well as shorter pieces about Shonen Knife, Inside Out, the Ramonas, and other groups. Feature articles and thoughts on the industry run all through the zine, and the record reviews are among the best I've seen, the right mix of info & irreverence. (S-56t)

★★★★★

BLACK EYE #4 ($1 from 324 E. 9th St., New York, NY 10003): A youthful anarchist zine with a lot of energy. Much of this issue centers around the recent Pentagon blockade, where the anarchist contingent raised such hell that the "Peace Police" of the organizers tried to get them busted, or at least removed! Several people present accounts of the festivities, along with anti-voting propaganda and news of other actions. (D-33r)

★★★★★

BLACK ON BLUE #4 ($1 (?) from Pete Prowant, PO Box 15875, Ft. Wayne, IN 46885-5875): Pete seems to be publishing this as a local service. Inside there are schedules for the local clubs as well as some notes on the big concert venues in the area. There are also assorted other bits; #4 has a page on Amnesty International, one on quartz crystals, and one on slogans for National Condom Week. (D-19r)

★★★★★

BLACK ROSE COLLECTIVE NEWSLETTER Winter 1989 (SASE (?) from PO Box 3266, El Segundo, CA 90245): The Black Rose Collective is Local 213 of the International Music Workers' Union, a group of young musicians determined to fight censorship and discrimination in music. In this broadside they take the International Office/Council of the Union to task, making various charges about misuse of funds and misguidance of policy. (D-2r)

★★★★★

BLACK STUFF (50¢ from Resident, 2288 Hawk, Simi Valley, CA 93065): A collection of black humor presented in comic strip form. One example is "Ways to Save Cash" including living in your car, eating your pets and "steal things outright". A great place to catch up on all those things your mother warned you you'd turn out to be if you didn't shape up. (D-12)

★★★★★

BLIND #3 (25¢ stamp from Edward Henry, 45-050 Ash St., Indio, CA 92201-3727): A collection of images old and new. 50's clip art and stills of Presidential assassinations rub elbows with Bob Black's "20 Questions" poster and some revolutionary detournement, as well as Fundamentalist propaganda. If only the real world was this interesting and meanignful! (S-14)

★★★★★

BLOOD CLOT #1 ($1 from Starhead Comix, PO Box 30044, Seattle, WA 98103): More gore, death, scars and stiches from those underground comic masters, Bob X. and Jeff Gaither (you may remember the latter from the FF27 cover). Lots of awful stuff here, aimed at making your lunch return for a second go-round. Includes a foldout centerfold. (M-20)

★★★★★

BLOODLOG Vol. 1 #4 ($1 from Martin Billheimer, 2778 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60647): A journal of strange and gory obsessions. Contents this time include an attack on Christian morality, a look at a John Wayne Gacy wannabe, and reprints of some letters from the Zodiac killer. Most of this is typed, making it much easier to read than previous issues. (S-12)

★★★★★

BLUE LIGHTS #18-19 ($3 from Spotlight Starman, c/o Lisa Wiser, 452 Park Dr., Greenwood, IN 46143): These folks are still working on bringing the Starman series back to TV. #18 is an update issue, discussing how the organization has been working and what's been in store. They've also put out a special "Essay Edition", with longer thoughts on the show and its universe, as well as the campaign, which is #19. This would be a good place to start. (S-30r)

★★★★★

BLUEPRINT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE Vol. XLII #2-5 (On request from Institute of Human relations, Loyola University, Box 12, New Orleans, LA 70118): Catholic analysis of social problems and their potential solutions. #2 looks at toxic waste in the Mississippi River. #3 is a very informative issue discussing the California grape boycott. #4 examines the current status of the nuclear club, with the latest on which countries are most actively pursuing nuke weapons research. #5 calls for universal access health care. (S-8t)

★★★★★

BONE & FLESH #1 ($4 from Frederick Moe, 4 Washington Ct., Concord, NH 03301): With co-editor Lester Hirsh, Frederick has put together a rather large collection of poems and stories for this premiere issue, bound in clear plastic. Most of the work here is highly retrospective, an exploration of history and roots, with a strongly traditional community flavor to it. It's all capped off by interviews with the writers involved, which is a nice touch. (S-52)

★★★★★

BONEDANCE #3 ($1 from 630 Stoddard St., East Lansing, MI 48823): A solid little pfanzine, featuring interviews with fIREHOSE, Soulside and a real fun talk with Eugene Chadbourne. There are also some experimental literary things from Scott Sendra and friends, wrapped up in a nice layout that looks punk without being dismally incompetent. (S-24r)

★★★★★

THE BOOK OF GOLD #1 (50¢ from Jeremy Crampton, 302 Walker Bldg., University Park, PA 16802): A "newsletter on Gene Wolfe and his works". Wolfe of course is a well-known science fiction author, and Crampton takes a position closer to exegesis than criticism when discussing his books. For example, one longish article here is devoted to explaining some of the Greek historical references in **SOLDIER IN THE MIST** (S-25)

★★★★★

THE BOOK OF MAN and **SON OF THE BOOK OF MAN** (75¢ from Jabberwocky Graphix, PO Box 166255, Irving, TX 75016): A pair of minis with strips from a batch of artists. The first features exclusively stories about strange heroes named (x)-Man, where (x) can be most anything. I especially liked the origin of East-Man, with some odd little homages in it. The sequel is more scattered and somewhat absurdist; the idea seems to be to get silly jokes into a single mini page. (M-8)

★★★★★

BOOKS ARE EVERYTHING! Vol. 1 #5-6 ($4 from R.C. & Elwanda Holland, 302 Martin Dr., Richmond, KY 40475): A fat booklet for the collector of paperback books. Major articles in #5 cover the artwork of Rafael de Soto, the collecting of short story collections, and similar things. #6 ranges from Essex House and John Dickson Carr checklists to a rundown on books with Marilyn Monroe on the cover. Lots of photos of classic cover art, and a growing number of ads from other dealers. (S-56)

★★★★★

BOSTON ROCK #93 ($1.50 from PO Box 371, New Town Branch, Boston, MA 02258): music Coverage of the club and lounge scene in Boston, together with interviews with the bigger indie groups making their splash today. In #93 this includes Cocteau Twins, Michelle Shocked, Wargasm, Dream Syndicate, and a whole bunch more. Not too far off the beaten path, but they do what they do pretty well. (T-24t)

★★★★★

BRAINSHADOW CONSPIRACY #1 ($1 from Cloud 247, PO Box 1132, Eastsound, WA 98245): These folks are busy documenting the incredible mess the world is in, but it's not really as downbeat as all that. They also seem to have some vision of a saner, more earth-centered future as well. Their collage presentation, with poetic notes, is a welcome change from the usual deadly-seriousness of leftists. (S-18)

★★★★★

THE BREITENBUSH NEWSLETTER Vol. V #1 ($4/yr from PO Box 578, Detroit, OR 97342): Breitenbush is two things: an intentional community and a New Age retreat & conference center. While the bulk of the contents here are devoted to programs at the latter, I find the coverage of upheavals in the former more fascinating; currently they're making the transition from consensus to hierarchy while trying to preserve group ownership. This is also a good place to learn about (and participate in) the fight to save old-growth forests. (S-32t)

★★★★★

B-SIDE Vol. 2 #6 ($13/6 issues from PO Box 1387, Fort Washington, PA 19034): Reasonably in-depth coverage on a whole passle of indie bands in every issue of this music tabloid. Part of the lineup from #6: Meat Puppets, Camper Van Beethoven, Christian Death, The Sugarcubes, Icehouse. (T-44t)

★★★★★

BTU #3 (SASE (?) from Reinaldo Aviles, PO Box 1202, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861): A small zine of opinion and something resembling anarchy. It consists of short essays on ideas like privatizing the local fire department, getting rid of social security, and dispensing with standardized english. There's a spirit of rebellion here that doesn't seem to have focused itself yet. (D-8r)

★★★★★

BUF-O Vol. 4 #5-6 (*Trade ONLY* from Klaus D. Haisch, 1729 E. tabor St., Indianapolis, IN 46203): B-movies, Twilight Zone, Silver Age Comics — these are a few of the things Klaus and his readers are interested in. These issues continue the series of reviews of TZ episodes. #5 also talks about the movie The Wasp Woman, while #6 looks at man-eating plants in the media. Klaus is looking for reference works on "Outer Limits" and "The Untouchables"; write him if you can help. (S-14)

★★★★★

BULLETIN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN GRENADA #4 ($5/yr from PO Box 20714, Cathedral Finance Stn., New York, NY 10025): It's five years now since Ronnie's thugs invaded this tiny island, and things are still rather muddled. For one thing, the rather controversial murder trial of former leaders of the New Jewel Movement isn't over yet. If this is all news to you, maybe you should take a look at this. (S-4t)

★★★★★

BURNING TODDLERS #5 ($3 from Frank Publications, PO Box 56942, Phoenix, AZ 85079): The "Youth" issue of this collection of oddness. Contents include a tape recording of some kid accusing her shop teacher of touching her bottom; strange short stories about sadistic teachers and likewise kids; a look at the **WONDERLAND** case by yours truly; and babies for dinner. Sick, perverted, and loads of fun, with some serious points as well. Closes with a few pages of reviews from the underground. (D-40t & tape)

★★★★★

BURP NEWS Dec. 1988 ($12/yr from Bill Ridgely, 7430 Gene St., Alexandria, VA 22310): The newsletter of the Brewers United for Real Potables, a beer-brewing and drinking club. This is their year-end wrapup issue, with a retrospective on their previous meetings (which sound suspiciously like parties), notes on upcoming events, and descriptions of the club and its functions. Sounds like fun. (S-20)

★★★★★

BUT A TWIST OF THE LIP #2 ("Stamp/monetary donation from Oyster publications, 723 N. Highland Ave., Arlington Heights, IL 60004): A rather slapdash layout makes it a bit of a challenge to read all of this reviewzine — a spinoff from the other Oyster publications. Lots of fanzines (including the most original review FF has gotten in a long time), plus ads, socially conscious stuff, letters and some art. Real friendly folks who are trying to run on a basis of no fixed price. (S-26t)

★★★★★

BUZZ #36-38 ($1 from PO Box 3111, Albany, NY 12203): Our local free music zine, and it does a decent job. This is a mixed bag, covering both the Albany area garage bands and the big names who pass through the area. Thus while you might pick up an issue for the story on Jimmy Cliff or Siouxsie, you might stay for Home or Blues Alley. #37 includes a Mitch Easter interview and an open letter to a record company from a reviewer who refuses to toe the party line. (S-32)

★★★★★

BVI-CENTRAL Vol. 7 #4-Vol. 8 #1 ($1 from J. LeRoy, PO Box 4843, East Lansing, MI 48826): This is, I think, the most central of all the BVI's — in more ways than one. That is, beside the title it seems to have the clearest vision, though darned if I understand what that is. J. veers abruptly from anti-Bush rants to plays based on not having change for the subway to autobiography to just plain bizarreness. His style is improving with every issue, and I withdraw at least 30% of the nasty things I said about BVI in the past. (D-20)

★★★★★

BVI-GREAT LAKES #3 ($1 from Ann LeRoy PO Box 4843, East Lansing, MI 48826): Fashion-conscious collages set off by snatches of writing. In this issue the paragraphs form a connected story of obsessive love, which reads very true-to-life, in which case Ann has certainly bared her soul pretty thoroughly. The issue concludes with a bit of poetry and less-connected words. (S-28t)

★★★★★

BVI-LINCOLN (25¢ from PO Box 85202, Lincoln, NE 68501): A couple of short satirical news stories. The best was mailed just in time for the inaguration, and concerns the decapitation of Dan Quayle. But don't expect much substance for your stamp. (D-4)

★★★★★

BVI-PACIFICA JOURNAL Vol. II #2 ($2.50 from Yael Dragwyla, PO Box 45792, Seattle, WA 98145-0792): A collection of ideas from the fringes and writers from the margins. #2 includes an extensive look at AIDS & hyper-oxygenation therapy by Waves Forrest, L.A. Rollins on gas chambers at Maidanek, and the one-liner correspondence of Michael Behaviour and Rian Fike, as well as a harrowing account of the editor's recent life hassles. (D-48r)

★★★★★

BVI-PACIFICA NEWSLETTER Vol. IV #2 ($2.50 from Yael Dragwyla, PO Box 45792, Seattle, WA 98145-0792): A collection of poetry, nonsense, and whatever else crosses the editor's desk. This includes some reflections on the fifth anniversary of the death of "Bob", a reprinting of "The Ballad of Eskimo Nell" (worth a look if you've never seen this famous bawdy song) and a new and different literary contest. (D-48r)

★★★★★

CAAC NEWS Fall 1988 (Donation from PO Box 7454, Olympia, WA 98507): The seasonal newsletter of the Central America Action Committee of Thurston County. Though they're in the midst of reorganizing, they manage to put out a strong publication, with firsthand accounts from El Salvador and Nicaragua as well as contragate info and local events. (S-10t)

★★★★★

CAKE #1-2 ($6.50 from PO Box 11237, San Franciso, CA 94101): An ambitious literary journal with a few extras, like the blueprints for cheap shelters for the homeless in #1. Other works tend towards experimental modes: labels from Geof Huth in #1, a couple of texts made more impenetrable by replacing words with definitions in #2. There's also the expected prose, poetry, photography and so on; Stephen Dixon's "The Former World's Greatest Green Pea Eater" stands out in #1, as does the special section of Estonian writing in #2. Far from the usual straightjackets of the genre, this is fresh & ambitious stuff. (S-116t)

★★★★★

CAMERA OBSCURA #18 ($5 from Marc Tucker, 1508 Faymont Ave., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266): This music zine has mutated into an audio cassette but the editor still feels it belongs here and I tend to agree. Though Marc doesn't editorialize as much as he used to, he still reviews all sorts of great music — and now can show us as well as tell us. The range here is from Peter Stenshoel to The Weeds to Mila, with Marc's knowledgeable commentary bridging the gaps between tunes. (T)

★★★★★

CAN WE NEWSLETTER #33 (Donation from PO Box 2152, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814): The meeting place for Citizens Against Nuclear War and Extermination.. They pack their space well, with quick blurbs about nuclear testing,t he politics of bomb-making, and ideas for proceeding towards peace rubbing elbows in this issue. Still, it looks like publishing is second to activism in their schedule, so theres not a whole lot here. (L-2)

★★★★★

CAPRA #75 ($2 or so from Marc Reed, PO Box 18293, Milwaukee, WI 53218): The Cinematic Amateur Press Association is still going strong, with everything from video reviews to Daffy Duck to a raging debate over the artistic merit of "Play Misty For Me". Member Ford Rafferty in particular manages to put together detailed articles — lately he's been considering the works and life of Joan Crawford. (S-82)

★★★★★

THE CARBON DATING SERVICE Vol. 1 #6 (SASE (?) from Alan Pruzan, 203 Belmont E. #207, Seattle, WA 98102-5646): A creative node that doesn't stick too closely to any one subject. #6 has more than you ever wanted to know about M&Ms (part of a continuing discussion) and a map of part of the communication net of Seattle, There's also bits of strange information, like the diagnostic TV pictures. (S-4)

★★★★★

CARGO CULT Vol. 2 #2 ($1.50 from Allan Clark, PO Box 1415 Stn. H, Montreal, Que. H3E 2W4, CANADA — don't put the zine name on the envelope, due to trouble with the PO): A zine devoted to experimental or esoteric music, with Uli Trepte, Audio Letter, Kathy Acker & Mecca Normal featuring prominently in this issue. Allan and co-editor Brian Fulmer also do a weekly radio show of experimental, industrial and other noise, so send two copies of anything outre you think they should play. (S-20r)

★★★★★

CARIBBEAN NEWSLETTER Vol. 8 #10/11 ($10/yr from Friends For Jamaica, PO Box 20392, Park West Finance Stn., New York, NY 10025): A medley of reporting from all those little countries in the Caribbean that you probably can't remember the names of. They concentrate on Jamaica and Grenada, but get around to everything. The political viewpoint is pretty well leftist. (S-8)

★★★★★

THE CARING CONNECTION Vol. 4 #11-Vol. 5 #1 (SASE & 25¢ from 3060 E. Bridge St. #342, Brighton, CO 80601): Published by the National Association of Caregivers of America, this used to be **HANDICAP NEWS**. In addition to passing on news of interest to those caring for others, editor Phylllis Burns is now helping to organize for legislative and social clout. On a more personal level, she's organizing a support system of letter-writers to let people know they are not alone. (S-8)

★★★★★

CATHOLIC WORKER Vol. LV #7 (25¢/yr from 36 E. First St., New York, NY 10003): Obviously that price won't cover costs, so if you want to see this and can afford it you should send more. These people are religious anarchists, deeply committed to a better life for all. They give all they can to others while fighting against poverty, war, abortion, and other repression. No matter whether you agree with them or not, they're quite inspiring. (T-8t)

★★★★★

CAUSES NEWSLETTER #10-12 ($40/12 issues from Energy Unlimited Publications, PO Box 3110, Laredo, TX 78044): A curious mix here. On the one hand there are well-done technical articles about things like the Stirling hot-air engine, which, while a bit "gosh-wow" in places, are right in the mainstream. On the other there are Vortexian Mechanics and Fullerian geometry. #11 discusses the global ice age trends, a new flame retardant process, and the cause of headaches by poor posture. (S-4t)

★★★★★

CAVEAT EMPTOR #16 ($3 from 8 Gate House Ln., Edison, NJ 08820): Well, it's been 14 years since their last issue, but this "magazine on the strange and unknown" is worth waiting for. Though centered on UFOs, they're willing to look at other outre things as well. There's a fascinating history of the previous incarnation (with some hints for small publishers), an interview with skeptical believer Jim Moseley, and thoughts on the state of the field in this issue. Well done for what's essentially a new premiere issue. (S-32t)

★★★★★

CCHW ACTION BULLETIN #20 ($15/yr from PO Box 926, Arlington, VA 22216): Part of the output of the Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Wastes, a group devoted to trying to get some of this garbage stuff *stopped*. There are hundreds of news blurbs in each issue, giving resources and events and local struggles and ideas for actions. #20 announces plans to return styrofoam packages to McDonalds to help with their purported recycling plans. (S-20r)

★★★★★

CEHSOIKOE #6 (75¢ from John Porcellino, 1954 Brookside Ln., Hoffman Estates, IL 60194): A forum for rather unrestrained creativity, as expressed through poetry, short prose, and artwork. John Rininger has an intriguing xerographic work in this issue, along with more poems of jail time from Paul Weinman and Sigmund Weiss writing on the act of creativity itself. (D-20)

★★★★★

CELTIC FRINGE Vol. III #3 ($10/yr from 6146 W. Giddings St., Chicago, IL 60630): A zine of Celtic culture and history. They cover all the Celtic areas surrounding Britain, from Brittany through Cornwall and Wales to Ireland and Scotland. The features are an eclectic mix: #3 includes a long interview with the folks behind a Scottish music label as well as thoughts on the Triple Goddess and on geese. (S-12)

★★★★★

CEMETARY DANCE #1 ($4 from Richard Chizmar, PO Box 189, Riverdale, MD 20737): A new magazine of horror fiction. There are some truly chilling stories here, not to mention the ones that are just downright icky, like Anke Kriske's "The Departing of Debbie", which I expect to keep me awake tonight. There are also strong entries from William Rasmussen, Steve Rasnic Tem, and Chris Lacher in this issue. (S-48)

★★★★★

CENSORSHIP NEWS #29 (Donation from NCAC, 2 W. 64th St., New York, NY 10023): The publication of the National Coalition Against Censorship, a civil liberties group fighting what is becoming a rather unpopular war. They pay most attention to obscenity cases, but contain a lot on attempts to limit the reading and writing of students as well. (S-8)

★★★★★

CERTAIN GESTURES #7 (40p. from David Tiffen, 55 Perowne St., Aldershot, Hants, GU11 3JR, ENGLAND): That's the domestic price, of course; $1 and a couple IRCs ought to suffice for the States. This small booklet contains two short stories, neither in a traditional mode. The first concentrates on the technical appurtenances of upper middle class life, and succeeds in deadening any interest we might have had in the characters. The second is a mixture of action-adventure and literary analysis, confusing the issue even more. (HS-16)

★★★★★

CFRA BULLETIN #74 ($1 (?) from Bob Kirlin, East 7609 Marietta, Spokane, WA 99212): The initials stand for College Football Researchers Association, which should give you a pretty good idea of what they're up to. This is more for the historically-minded fan than the handicapper, as the focus is on the best teams of all times in hypothetical matchups, rather than just on the current season's favorites. (S-10)

★★★★★

THE CHAIN LETTER REPORT ($1 (?) from Flint Mitchell, 7331 Terri Robyn, St. Louis, MO 63129-5253): Flint is fascinated by chain letters, and he's looking for other people who feel the same way. He especially wants to hear of results from those who have participated in such things. This introductory issue talks a bit about the classic chain letter format and then reprints a few examples. (S-13)

★★★★★

CHAIRS MISSING #3 ($2 from Scott Munroe, PO Box 375, Fairfield, CT 06430): A fanzine of the basics: interviews and reviews. But that's OK because they do good things, like asking Kim Gordon of Sonic Youth about her marriage instead of just the band, as if musicians were people too. Other interviews include Naked Raygun, NoMeansNo, and Verbal Assault. Wrapped up with a heap of record reviews. (S-44)

★★★★★

CHAMP CHANNELS Voll. 5 #3/4 ($9/4 issues from Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation, PO Box 2134, Wilton, NY 12866): A newsletter devoted to Champ, America's answer to Nessie. They publish details on the latest sightings and searches, together with other news about Lake Champlain. Snippets of news from the wider Fortean and cryptozoological worlds are also included. (S-8)

★★★★★

CHANGING MEN #19 ($16/4 issues from Feminist Men's Publications, 306 N. Brooks St., Madison, WI 53715): The subtitle to this one is "Issues in Gender, Sex and Politics", and it represents a pretty politically sophisticated wing of the men's movement. Topics in this issue include being married and gay, male rape, the relationship between pornography and homophobia, and dealing with AIDS in the workplace. (S-48t)

★★★★★

DOUG CHAPEL COMICS

Doug says he's been drawing since birth but only got serious about it a year or so ago. He's certainly cranked out a lot in that time, much of it concerned with identifying and transcending industry trends. The art is nice even if you don't try to follow the stories, which can be pretty confusing. All of the following are available from him at 38 Reservoir St., Holden, MA 01520.

•**BLECCHKISS #1-4** (50¢): A comic that steadfastly refuses to stick to its own plot, preferring instead to explore various exploitative themes common in other comics. Confusing, to say the least. (D-4)

•**CHAPEL ZONE #37-42** ($1): More or less the flagship of the DCC empire, this one features full-page strips with folks like the Ratman, some bimbo who hangs around in space operas, and a man with three nostrils (who, however, is quickly removed). #38 features an illustrated essay on the current batch of well-rounded superheroes. Doug also gets a bit of collage into each issue. (S-8)

•**DOUBLE DOSE OF SEWAGE #1-2** ($1): Senseless violence, attacks on the reader fromm the artist, and covers collaged from newspaper headlines make this the aggressive side of the company. (S-10)

•**GRAFUC VIOLENCE GALORE #3-4** ($1): The most popular part of **DOUBLE DOSE OF SEWAGE** moved to its own book. Rayguns, mass murderers, robots, high-tech cops and torture machines infest this universe. (S-11)

•**LAMENTATION PROCLAMATION** ($1): A rant of obsessive love and a life that seems pointless illustrated with collage and artworks. (S-10)

•**SPUN #11-13** (75¢): Reviews of mainstream comics, indie music and what-not, together with news about the local scene. Even though this isn't an art magazine per se it still has the comics feel because the layout and lettering match that of the other DCC zines. (S-7)

•**TOTAL DEATH** (25¢): The record of a bad day plagued with thoughts of unrequited love and suicidal impulses. A rant aimed at a world that doesn't cope well with artists. (D-4)

★★★★★

CHEAP THRILLS #4 (50¢ from David Lee Ingersoll, PO Box 15082, Santa Rosa, CA 95402): This minicomic is put out whenever Dave gets to it, which is pretty often. #4 features a stand up comic who does better falling down. (M-12)

★★★★★

CHI-APA #28 ($3 from Maurice Forrester, PO Box 427, Syracuse, NY 13210): An amateur press association centered about comics, mainly for those who are interested in scripting or drawing them rather than just talking about them. The apa is coming out of the doldrums lately, with an increase in membership and more comics and scripts from those involved, as well as comments to one another. (S-36)

★★★★★

CHOKEHOLD #5-7 (50¢ from Lance LeVine, 190 Grove Ave., Des Plaines, IL 60016): Quick and dirty wrestling coverage from a guy who's main qualification is being a rabid fan of the sport. #5 reports on the first convention of the United Association of Wrestling Fans and prints an interview with Eddie Gilbert. #7 includes a backstage look at SuperClash III and a top-ten list of the women of wrestling, whether athletic or decorative. (S-10)

★★★★★

CINEMONDO #2-4 ($1 from 455 E. Paces Ferry Rd. #302, Atlanta, GA 30305): Though Freddie Krueger is on the cover of #2, this film mag does not cater only to the gore and guts set. Instead, they make an effort to review a wide spectrum of current movies, serious and silly alike. #2 also includes a feature on Last Temptation of Christ; #4 features extended coverage of Killer Klowns From Outer Space. Lots of reviews. (S-30t)

★★★★★

CITIZENS PUBLISHING #2 ($6/3 issues from Rocket Graphics, 1112 Bellwood Dr., Loveland, OH 45140): "A journal of self-published comics and books", this is being expanded by editor Jim Pack to cover much of the small press field. Jake Wisely has even joined the staff to do music reviews, though the main focus remains printed work, with Jim's reviews providing a core. There are also comics and stories and, in #2, a nice essay from Janet Fox about the pitfalls of self-publishing. (D-30t)

★★★★★

CITY PAPER Vol. 8 #46 ($35/2 issues from Washington Free Weekly, Inc., 724 9th St. NW, Washington, dc 20001): Another free alternative tabloid, this one from our nation's capital. As one might expect, politics is a major subject, but entertainment, especially in the form of calendar listings, is also right up there. (T-72t)

★★★★★

CIVIS Vol. III #3 and **CIVITAS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION REPORT #3** ($15/yr from PO Box 26, Swain, NY 14884): A pair from the organization founded by Dr. Hans Reusch to spread the news that vivisection has no medical justification at all. **CIVIS** is the US version, mainly devoted to news of the International League of Doctors for the Abolition of Vivisection. **CIVITAS** is Reusch's own organ, and though he is managing to alienate a great many others in the animal rights field by his intransigent stands, he still manages to fight back hard against the real enemy: those who perform worthless cruelties on animals. (S-4t,A4-8t)

★★★★★

COALITION FOR PRISONERS' RIGHTS NEWSLETTER Vol. 13 #11-12 (Donation from PO Box 1911, Santa Fe, NM 87504): Working with limited resources, these folks are trying to help prisoners retain their basic rights, and to make wardens and the prison bureaucracy follow the law. They provide a sort of low-key networking service for inmates with problems, and also try to publicize abuses, mostly in New Mexico prisons but also all over. (HL-8r)

★★★★★

COALITION TO PROTECT ANIMALS IN PARKS & REFUGES Vol. IV #3 (Donation from PO Box 26, Swain, NY 14884): A newsletter for people trying to eliminate hunting and trapping on wildlife refuges. This is a special issue, giving the basics of the upcoming US Fish & Wildlife Service hearings on refuge use, with instructions on how to make them aware of your feelings. (S-6t)

★★★★★

COLLINWOOD REVISITED #5 ($2 from Bruce Yarbor, 2306 N. MacArthur, Oklahoma City, OK 73127): Probably not the only Dark Shadows zine, but certainly the only one I get. In fact, they even give addresses and zine samples from other DS fans. There's also amateur fiction, crossword puzzles, and lots of photos and drawings — unfortunately the photocopying does not do justice to most of these. Bruce also has promotional buttons available, maybe for 50¢ or so. (S-32)

★★★★★

COLTSFOOT Vol. IX #6 ($1.50 from James Troy, Box 313A, Shipman, VA 22971): A journal of wild plants and their uses. #6 includes a timely first installment (just before the holidays) of a longish article on Mistletoe, and some notes on the carcinogenic and pesticidal properties of basil. (D-21r)

★★★★★

COLUMBIA: A MAGAZINE OF POETRY & PROSE #13 ($4.50 from 404 Dodge Hall, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027): A nice collection of literary work. Though some of this material gets away from life in New York, it seems to settle on life as it is elsewhere, without getting particularly experimental — solid, not flashy stuff. Of note: Marge Piercy's "The Truth According to Ludd", a poem of mechanism fighting back; Tom Perrotta's child-view of "The Wiener Man"; and the interview with Allen Ginsberg. (D-172t)

★★★★★

COLUMBIANA Vol. 2 #4 ($7.50/yr from Chesaw Route, Box 83-F, Oroville, WA 98844): A magazine for the Columbia River bioregion. As such, ecological concerns are perhaps paramount, but they're also concerned with the people present. This is a special "Culture & Community" issue, with everything from local theater to Green politics to ideas for reorganizing elderly care to a look at the scarcity of good new apple varieties. (S-80t)

★★★★★

COMICS UPDATE #96-100 (75¢/$1.50 for #100 from Ian Shires, PO Box 360922, Strongsville, OH 44136): This comics news zine has a long history, with a bunch of publishers dropping it due to the abusive manner of editor Andrew Roller. Now Ian has taken over and promises to make Andrew stay in line — which I will believe if I see. If things don't change, this will remain a place for slimy invective masquerading as reviews together with simmering racism. #100 is a double issue featuring reviews from Lynn Hansen and Ian once again demanding that Andrew behave himself. (M-16t)

★★★★★

COMMON GROUND OF PUGET SOUND Vol. 3 32 ($10/yr from PO Box 718, Issaquah, WA 98027) A relatively lightweight "Journal and Resource Guide for Personal Growth". Though they run a few articles on topics like ecology, AIDS, or peace, the bulk of this is New Age advertising. The usual mix of institutes, retreats, practitioners and retailers is included. (T-24t)

★★★★★

THE COMPLEAT MOTHER Fall 1988 ($2.50 from Box 399, Mildmay, ONT N0G 2J0, CANADA): A magazine for new mothers, mothers-to-be, and concerned fathers. They hold on to a lot of unorthodox ideas: in favor of natural home birth and breastfeeding, against episiotomies and bottlefeeding. Much is written by readers in the form of natural success stories. A quite supportive and friendly magazine. (S-66t)

★★★★★

COMPOST NEWSLETTER Yule 1988 ($1 *check/MO* [note "for CNL" on check] from Valerie Walker, 729 Fifth Ave., San Francisco, CA 94118): A wide-open pagan publication that'll print most anything. In the Yule issue there's some simple herbalism, a curious satirical play, NROOGD ritual, book reviews, and general madness. Submissions of more of the same are welcome. (S-20t)

★★★★★

CONFLICT #49 ($2.50 from PO Box 264, New York, NY 10009): In this issue Gerard Cosloy takes a bit of time off from slagging new music to slag fanzines too, giving minor hints as to the purpose (if that's not too lofty a word) of the zine. But you don't have to worry about demythologizing the scene. You can just read the nasty letters, the live show reviews, the latest NYC punk gossip, and reviews of more lousy records than I hope FF ever gets. Frogs interview leads the whole thing off. (S-29r)

★★★★★

THE CONNECTION #154-155 ($2.50 from Erwin S. Strauss, PO Box 3343, Fairfax, VA 22038): A place to go and chat with libertarians, egoists, individualists, anarchists, and other cranks. "Chat" in this case mostly means "argue", as this is one of the feistier amateur press associations around. Current topics include investment strategies, the feasibility of establishing a libertarian enclave somewhere, and other means of getting some freedom. (D-88r)

★★★★★

CONSERVATORY OF AMERICAN LETTERS NEWSLETTER Vol. III #4 (SASE from PO Box 88, Thomaston, ME 04861): These folks are in the business of helping new writers get published — not by buying and releasing their work, but by aiding them in "personal publishing", which they see as a low-cost alternative to Vanity Press. Their prices and services do look reasonable if you have something you'd like to bring out in a short run. (S-8t)

★★★★★

CONSUMER JUNK #5 (A$3 from Dick Hunton, 8 Central Ave., Ivanhoe, 3079 Melbourne, AUSTRALIA): This punk zine is back after a long absence; still mixing new music with old politics in the form of newspaper clippings and articles. In between interviews with the likes of Lethal Overdose, Cryptic Slaughter, and SDT (many interviews are by mail from the U.S.), Dick informs us about things like the Australian operations of the Church of Scientology. It's a good deal and a lot of words for the money. (A4-52r)

★★★★★

CONTRA WATCH #13 ($15/yr from Global Options, PO Box 40601, San Francisco, CA 94140): These folks keep an eye on the Contras and our funding of them. When news from that area is slow, they branch out into other bits of global geopolitics. The decline of the new right, the war on drugs, South Africa and Palestinians all get mentioned in #13. (S-8t)

★★★★★

CONVERGING PATHS Winter Solstice 1988 ($4 from PO Box 63, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572): A Wiccan magazine interested in promoting better understanding between many branches of the craft as well as within branches. They present quite a mix of articles: an anthropological look at Wicca, a Gardnerian defense of secrecy, the first ritual I've seen for dealing with coven members who break the rules, and a children's page are among the offerings this time. (S-32)

★★★★★

CONVOLUSIONS Vol. 1 #1 (1 IRC from Cerebral Shorts, 5/143 Glenhuntly Road, Elwood 3184, AUSTRALIA): A new node in the international correspondence art network. As a first issue, it's mostly an announcement of willingness to print works and news, but there is some poetry (both found and composed) and notice of half a dozen shows in #1. There's also a very nice multicolor rubberstamped back cover. (D-8t)

★★★★★

COPS HATE POETRY #9 ($1.25 from Charles Bernstein, 5632 West South Park Ave., Morton Grove, IL 60053): Yeah, there's poetry here, but that's only part of the package. For example, there are also interviews with music producer Spot, band the Dis-Illusioned, and voodoo king of New Orleans Chicken-Man in this issue. There's also video and music reviews, opinion pieces, and pithy sayings from Swami Harold. looking for good work from all over and printing a nice selection of it. (HL-24r)

★★★★★

COUNTER INFORMATION #21 (Donation from p/h CI, 11 Forth St., Edinburgh EH1, UNITED KINGDOM): A collection of stories on labor uprisings, poll tax resistance, anti-workfare protests and similar grassroots actions. They seem to be into the idea of a general uprising to destroy the system as it stands, although I can't tell off hand what they want to replace it with. (A4-4t)

★★★★★

CRAMPED AND WET #3 ($1 from 3015 Virginia, Sioux City, IA 51104): From Max Headroom getting his brains blown out on the front cover to Ed Gein's Pizza Shack on the back, this is definitely punk even if the music content is sort of minimal. Lots of ranting and raving about the scene and the society, interspersed with a few reviews and shock/schlock art. Middle America ain't a wasteland yet. (S-16)

★★★★★

CRAWL OR DIE #7 (SASE from Scott Miller, PO Box 375, Bradford, MA 01830): A quickie issue taking advantage of proximity to a copy machine. This is a collection of stuff about mass-murderers and other cheery folks, collected by Scott from many sources. People covered in brief include

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★★★★★

CREDENZA #4 ($4/yr from 743 Goodrich Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105): A rather unassuming literary zine that dares to open its borders to non-self-contained work. Thus we get Cara Palladino's essay on sprinklers, which leaves off on a puzzled and uncertain note, as well as the strong poetry of Dina Ben-Lev and some artistic silliness from Mark Rose. (S-22)

★★★★★

CRITTERS #32-35 ($2.25 from Fantagraphics Books, 1800 Bridgegate Rd. #101, Westlake Village, CA 91361): A slick-cover funny animal comic book. I read it mostly to keep up with Fission Chicken, J.P. Morgan's hilarious sendup of superhero cliches (great anti-nuke series in #32 and 33). I suspect a lot of folks check in for Freddy Milton's Gnuff. The complete Fantagraphics catalog appears as an insert to #33. (S-32)

★★★★★

CROSS COUNTRY STITCHING #1 ($3 from PO Box 710, Manchester, NH 06040): A magazine specifically for those who enjoy cross stitching as a way to relax and decorate. They feature lots of charts for samplers, door hangers, and other things. there are also guides to buying materials and a list of shops. (S-32t)

★★★★★

CROSSCURRENTS Vol. 2 #1 ($1 from David Cushman, 42 Stoughton Rd., East Windsor, CT 06088): A newsletter for the members of the Small Press League, a batch of minicomic-oriented folks. This is basically the introductory issue, since it's David's first as editor, and so he's invited SPL members to describe themselves and their history for one antoher. Apparently the biggest thing that needs to be worked out is just what this group is good for, but it's off to a fairly good start. (D-12r)

★★★★★

CRYONICS Vol. 9 #6-11 ($2 from Alcor, 12327 Doherty St., Riverside, CA 92503): The magazine of the most serious cryonics group that I know of; they have patients in suspension, sophisticated medical facilities, and the expertise and drive to do the job right. Unfortunately, they also have problems: massive legal expenses fighting the state of California, which seems to have decided that they own the bodies of clinically dead people, and that these people's wishes to be suspended should be ignored. Surely there's a civil rights case lurking here. Meanwhile, there's lots of information and inspiration in this journal. (HL-60t)

★★★★★

CUBIST POP MANIFESTO #3-4 (3 25¢ stamps from 3408 Juliet St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213): A fanzine from one of the more quiet & melodic corners of the music underground. #3 includes an interview with Calvin Johnson of Beat Happening and a live report on My Dad Is Dead, for example. #4 has a long review of Homestead's "Human Music" compilation and, for some reason, a Molly Ringwald quiz. (D-16t)

★★★★★

CULT COMIX #10 ($2.50 from John Eberly, PO Box 8312, Wichita, KS 67208): Bigger and better than ever, this one exposes religion in more ways than one, with some pages definitely not for the easily offended. An all-star cast including the Blaster, John Bennett. Bob Black, Gerry Reith, Dadata, Malok, and Jake Berry has it out with various sects, sex, and who knows what else, in words and pictures. (D-44r)

★★★★★

DABLA #2-3 (75¢ from Gizmo Stress, 1247 Graham Ave. #H-8, Florence, AL 35630): A somewhat random assortment of art, poetry, and writing. These range in #2 from Paul Weinman's poems to scribbled cartoons about an origami skater to a short story about codeine addiction. Very bizarre and not yet at all orderly. #3 is heavy on anarchist concerns, which appear ready to spin off into a new publication, **BRICK**. (HL-16)

★★★★★

DAGGER #8 ($1 *CASH* from Tim Hinely, PO Box 460, Somers Point, NJ 08244): Tim is sounding a bit burned out with the new music scene these days, but he still does a good job of covering it. Mostly punk but pretty wide-ranging, **DAGGER** has a ton of live reviews and record and zine listings, plus interviews with (this time) Rifle Sport, Bastro, Band of Susans and The Didjits. There's also an anti-rap diatribe and more top-ten disk lists from famous folks. (D-52r)

★★★★★

DAILY IMPULSE Vol. 4 #3 ($1 from PO Box 90312, San Diego, CA 92109): An anarchist zine with ties to the local punk community. They've been running a series of basics on anarchy and on fascism which is well-written and informative. They also have local scene reports and consistently excellent posters and graphics. (S-10t)

★★★★★

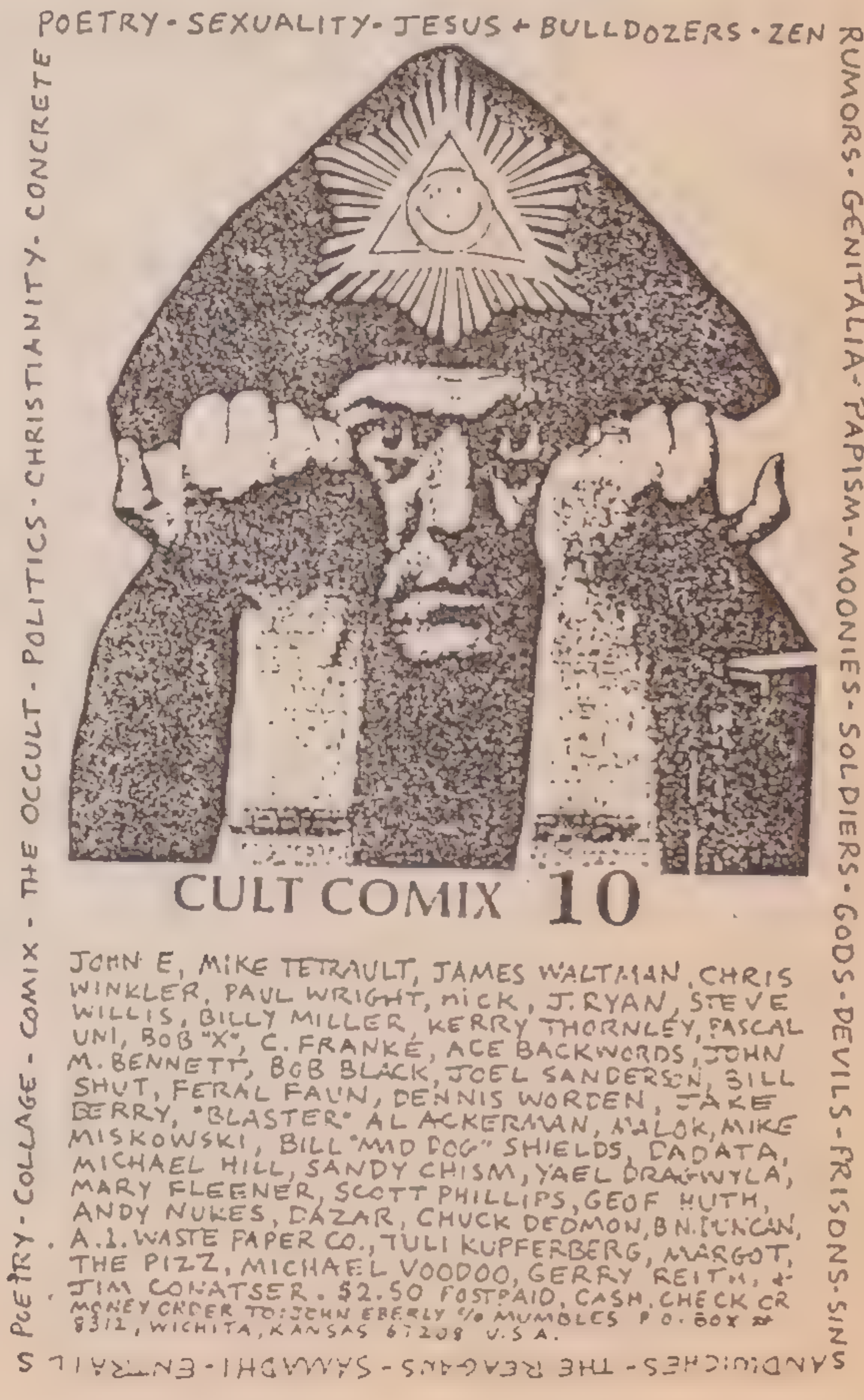
DARK LILY #7 ($4 from BCM Box 3406, London WC1N 3XX, ENGLAND): A quarterly magazine of magick which proclaims "The Reality of the Left Hand Path", though we're given to understand that this path is not what we traditionally think it is. Written by someone involved in a Crowleyan system but not yet Adept, it recounts adventures on the path and speculations about where it leads. Essays and conversation with readers also feature in the format, though I find the editor's answers to be maddeningly non-specific in most cases. (A5-34)

★★★★★

DARKNERVE #2 ($2.50 from 2370 Market St. #66, San Francisco, CA 94114): A relatively highbrow but still pretty marginal offering. This is the "Sex and Politics Issue", and it contains some wild rides indeed. Antero Alli checks in with an analysis of some of the faults of the New Age, while Elswood talks of male penetration anxiety and reveals the existence of the male G-spot. There's also a bizarre cartoon about fun, strangely changed dirty pictures, , and an analysis fo the psychology of chess-playing, plus much more. (O-26r)

★★★★★

DAVE'S SECULAR LENS #10 ($2 from Dave D'Ammassa, 323 Dodge St., East Providence, RI 02914): Dave is clearly going a little nutso as his senior year in high school progresses, and it shows in the psychotic little vignettes he writes for the zine. Otherwise this is a SF zine in the traditional form: much chatter and strangeness (Hawaiian surfboard terms in this issue) together with letters from other people who used to read SF when they had the chances. Engaging writing. (S-16)



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CULT COMIX 10

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★★★★★

DAVOID #7 (50¢ (?) from PO Box 348, Hawthorne, NJ 07507): Another confusing comic of madness and mayhem. The lead character here is the Tulip Man, who gets involved in cavities, rape, and murder. Other characters are at least partially dismembered. Like a bad acid dream — no plot, just disturbing imagery. (S-4)

★★★★★

DEAD PEOPLE #10 ($1 (?) from Jorge, 4 Henry St., Lakewood, NJ 08701): A zine that seems to be mostly an excuse for some pretty juvenile humor, much of it involving pornography juxtaposed with world leaders and clergy from the Catholic Church. There's a few music reviews and a spiteful horoscope section as well. (D-16)

★★★★★

THE DECADENT WORKER #137-145 ($1/5 issues from Kerry W. Thornley, PO Box 5498, Atlanta, GA 30307): Kerry Thornley's continuing ruminations on the conspiracies which surround him in this life. Current topics in this continuing series of broadsides include the AIDS-germ warfare connection, intelligence community cant, the Kennedy assassination investigation, and links between the fascists and the Jesuits. (S-1)

★★★★★

DECALCOMANIA #58-60 ($1 from Mark Strickert, 3852 N. Oconto Ave., Chicago, IL 60634): A newsletter for collectors of radio paraphenelia. This includes not just t-shirts, bumper stickers and the like but also tapes of station IDs ("airchecks"). A vast amount of info here, but it's mind-boggling that anyone wants it all. Then again, they probably think collecting fanzines is strange. (D-30r)

★★★★★

DECENTRALIZE! #10 ($4/4 issues from Carol Moore, PO Box 3531, Washington, DC 20007): Carol has been moving through various alternative political arenas promoting decentralization as a solution to many of our various problems. Unfortunately, this doesn't sit well with even small-potato powermongers. This issue describes her recent bushwhacking by both the ultra-left faction of the Greens and the right wing of the Libertarian Party, and asks for advice on how to form an organization immune to creeping bureaucracy and centralism. (S-4t)

★★★★★

DECODER #2 (IRCs (?) from Silvia Romanelli, Via Serra Perno 61, 14033 Castell'Alfero (AT) ITALY): A really nice rebellious zine that combines the spirits of the sixties and the eighties. Feature articles cover things like the Hippie revival in Britain, the Council on Foreign Relations, Ho's prison diaries, and telepreachers in America. Lots of good graphics from psychedelic to punk. Only one catch: it's all in Italian. (A4-80)

★★★★★

DEJA VU #4 ($1 from Eric Mayer, 279 Collingwood Dr., Rochester, NY 14621): An unassuming little zine of personal writing. In this issue, Eric talks of helping out at the zoo and further examines carnival chickens, Luke McGuff writes of old people falling down, John MacLeod praises jazz & the Monk, and Tim Corrigan describes a rugged individualist. Also has some letters on past issues. (D-18r)

★★★★★

DEMITASSE Oct. 20 ($2 (?) from 506 1/2 N. Court, Fairfield, IA 52556): A collection of bits of art and criticism, spreading all over the map. Contents of this issue range from a New Yorck scene report and a chat with Henry Rollins to a review of a Gauguin retrospective to an appreciation of Joseph Campbell to film reviews. They also publish poetry and curiously captioned photos and otherwise dress up their spacious layout. (T-32t)

★★★★★

DENSITY #1 ($1 (?) from Jason Jamer, 18 Malaga Dr., Trenton, NJ 08638): A skatezine with some music coverage, or maybe a hardcore zine with some skateboard coverage. Either way it has photos of guys flying through the air, a few show reviews, and short interviews with Warzone, Psycho Zin, McRad and other bands. Pretty small yet, but enthusiastic. (S-18)

★★★★★

DER GOLEM #2 ($2 from Verlag Golem, PO Box 3414, Providence, RI 02906): A journal of esoteric, magical, and humorous Judaism. This issue kicks off with correspondence between editor Debbi Schwartz-Doppelganger and Rabbi no Running Water, a sometime-Native American from Kentucky. Nothing can be the same after this, even to we goyim who don't get all the jokes. Beneath the patina of smartassery there seems to be an honest seeking for some sort of truth. (D-24t)

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★★★★★

DETECTIVE STORY MAGAZINE #1-3 ($4 from Gryphon Publications, PO Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228-0209): A new entry in the short mystery field. It's off to a somewhat rocky start, but there are some nice bits even in #1. Donald Blanford's "The Forces of Instinct" has a nice ending, if a bit low on build-up; Will Murray's "The Green Brassiere" is a nice sendup of the whole hardboiled dick genre. William Nolan presents a fun SF/mystery crossover in #3. (D-50r)

★★★★★

DHARMA COMBAT #4 ($2.50 from Jim Keith, PO Box 20593, Sun Valley, NV 89433): A forum for discussion of religion, metaphysics, spirituality, paganism, satanism, and related topics. The contributors come from all but traditional points of the compass, and the majority of them are tolerant and interesting. Probably no great philosophical syntheses will come of this chitchat, but the participants certainly seem to be enjoying themselves. (D-56r)

★★★★★

DIALOGUE #78 ($5/yr from 916 Euterpe, New Orleans, LA 70130): A mostly monthly progressive zine with emphasis on New Orleans but some wider tentacles. #78 includes coverage of a local theatre group plus a long analysis of the slums of the city as being a Third World enclave. (HL-24r)

★★★★★

DIARIST'S JOURNAL #11-13 ($2 from 102 W. Water St., Lansford, PA 18232): This is unexpectedly good reading; there's something nice about reading about the lives of other people as presented in their own words. They also feature articles related to diaries: #11 includes some info on James Cummings, who owns nearly 13,000 printed diaries. The whys and hows of diary-keeping continue to mix with the results, to good advantage. (T-16)

★★★★★

DIRTY LINEN #24 ($3 from PO Box 66600, Baltimore, MD 21239-6600): That's a special sample price, so be sure to mention you saw it here. This is a magazine for fans of "Folk, Folk-Rock, and Traditional Music", with its roots in a Fairport Convention fanzine but much wider horizons now. This issue features lots of interviews, Jerry Donahue, Richard Thompson's "Amnesia" album, the Cropredy '88 Fairport reunion, music from Thailand, and a whole lot more. Exhaustive coverage of a musical corner that they may be nearly alone in. (S-78t)

★★★★★

THE DIRTY OLD LADY DIGEST #1-2 (75¢ & age statement from Jabberwocky Graphix, PO Box 166255, Irving, TX 75016): A zine of D&A comics — that is, naked (or nearly-so) males drawn by women. The offerings in these two issues range from realistic to fantastic, and lustful to humorous. A blow for equality in comics-land. (M-12)

★★★★★

DIRTY PLOTTE #3-5 ($1 from Julie Doucet, C.P. 553, Succ. C, Montreal, Que., H2L 4K4, CANADA) That'll cover a few issues as this is only 25¢ in person. A comic of sex, urination, anmd other fun subjects; the caliber may be assessed by noting the story "Tampax dans l'Espace" in #4. Other strips feature Kirk and Spock claiming new planets with their urinary ability, sex with snakes, and a wide variety of disturbing images. (D-8)

★★★★★

DISABLED CELL #1 ("Send gifts and stamps" from Katrina Kelly, 18 Taylor Ave., Earlville, NY 13332): A collection of graffiti and short essays and silly interviews. The story of the boy who died from growing too much hair is somewhat bizarre, and the suggestions for dealing with Christmas are downright unAmerican. (S-6)

★★★★★

DISCIPLE #1 (60¢ from Chris Arnold, 4706 Mink St. SW, Pataskala, OH 43062): A new comic which hasn't had the chance to develop very far. But we seem to have me the lead character, a strange guy who lives in a cave in the hills and sacrifices chickens inside a pentagram. Meanwhile, the good cop is also on the scene, with premonitions about the future. Pretty ddecent artwork too. (D-12)

★★★★★

DISCOTEXT Nov. 1988-Jan. 1989 ($12/yr from Graceland, 1250 Richards St., Vancouver, BC V6B 3G2, CANADA): It's not many nightclubs that have their own magazine, let alone send copies all over the place. If you're into "house music", this is probably worth checking out; I've never even heard of the vast majority of artists they feature. Besides the direct music stuff, they run fractured horoscopes and notes on dance-club acoustics. (S-16t)

★★★★★

DI'S MEET PEOPLE Dec. 1988 ($6.95/6 months from Di Co., PO Box 247, Osseo, MN 55369): Wall-to-wall singles advertisements from the Minneapolis area. They don't take ads from escort services, sexual maniacs or married folk, just people looking for friends and companions (or at leas that's all they say they're looking for). Looks like about 2000 ads per issue (T-32r)

★★★★★

THE DILLINGER RELIC #59 ($1 from Arthur D. Hlavaty, PO Bo 52028, Durham, NC 27717): After multiple Hugo nominations Arthur sti hasn't won, but he continues to write entertainingly of his life in and out c

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science fiction. #59 includes his report from the most recent Worldcon. He also talks at length about his enrollment in graduate study in Information Science, perhaps on the theory that pro football is no longer confusing enough of his readers. (S-8r)

★★★★★

DISINFORMATION #10 ($10 from Institute for International Studies, 1815 H St. NW #600, Washington, DC 20006): "Soviet Active Measures and Disinformation Forecast", this one is devoted to assuring us all that things haven't changed a bit in the Evil Empire, glasnost or no glasnost. The absurdity of their position becomes obvious when you realize that there is no possible information that would change their minds; this is basically a publication of faith, however much it's dressed up with factoids. (S-14t)

★★★★★

DIXIE VOICE #12-#13/14 ($2 from Melissa Manuel, Route 2, Box 121A, Germanton, NC 27019): Southern-fried music coverage that seems almost in love with most of the bands reviewed. The high point of #12 is the section on the Church, with a batch of concert reports and an extensive discography. Spot 1019 and The Right Profile get major coverage as well. #13/14 is a $4 double Holiday issue, with tons of photos, scene history, the Athens Music Festival, Let's Active, Sugarcubes, The Allisons and lots, lots more. (S-74)

★★★★★

DOCUMENTs pages 1-10 (11F from Philippe Bille, BP 249, 33012 Bordeaux, FRANCE): A collection of collage and other mail-art images, each identified with artist, medium, and size, just as in a real art exhibition. Comes with attribution to original sources, mostly European. (A4-10)

★★★★★

DOVELINK #1 (A pile of IRCs from Gideon Strauss, Box 522, Bloemfontein 9300, SOUTH AFRICA): A new journal for conscientious objectors to the South African universal draft. CO's there have to be religiously-motivated universal pacifists, and then serve 6 years doing community service instead of 4 in the military. Things, in other words, are rough, and they can use all the support they can get. (A4-24)

★★★★★

DOWN BY THE BOARDWALK Vol. 2 #3 ($2 from White Knight Productions, PO Box 656, Wautoma, WI 54982): A small newsletter for record collectors that also wanders off into other byways of popular culture. #3, for example, in addition to coverage of and a discography for the Vogues, announces the formation of a"Days of Our Lives" fan club. (S-12)

★★★★★

DREAM
magazine
Box 131 Block Island, Rhode Island 02807 U.S.A.

DOWNTOWN #119 ($1 from 151 First Ave, New York, NY 10003): A mildly alternative tabloid for the New Yorker. This issue is notable for the cover story, Mykel Board's "Starwars in Zineland", an attempt to fit all of music zine publishing into an internecine combat scheme. Other topics include CATV equal access, the left's failure to organize after the invasion of Grenada, and of course things to see and do in the big city. (T-36t)

★★★★★

DRAFT NOtices Vol. 9 #6 ($10/yr from COMD, PO Box 15195, San Diego, CA 92115): These folks are obviously in for the long haul, as they continue to oppose the draft and other forms of militarism. #6 is an especially interesting issue as it looks at the means used to maintain a standing army in other countries, starting with Mexico and Central America. There's also an update on the various Solomon amendments and news about their leafletting campaign at area high schools. (S-10)

★★★★★

DREAM #11 & #15 (50¢ (?) from PO Box 131, Block Island, RI 02807): A pair of micro-miniature art zines. #11 is a found zine, composed of photocopied classified ads bound sideways. #15 has its own title, "Blood Runs Through My Heart", and features abstract red-and-white pages. (MM-32)

★★★★★

DRIFT #2-4 (Free from #424 - 280 Dundas St. East, Toronto, ONT M5A 3W1, CANADA): "Free, but unused Canadian postage stamps help." Rants and raves and postcards and the words of Fido Dogstoevski. There's no real strong connection between what appears here and anything else, so the title seems rather appropriate. #3 has comments on the state of the world, dogs and cats, perennial students, books to buy, and more. #4 is suddenly much bigger with reviews and suicide notes and poetry and lots more. (S-24t)

★★★★★

DRIPPINGWETTE GAZETTE #4 (SASE (?) from PO Box 297, keansburg, NJ 07734): A youthful looking zine with music, rants, and the definition of "bliv". No real focus here, unless it's the difficulty of living cheaply in suburban New Jersey, what with the high cost of concerts and all. Does have tips on some cool places to shop in the area. (S-18)

★★★★★

THE DROOD REVIEW OF MYSTERY Vol. VIII #10 ($1.50 from PO Box 8872, Boston, MA 02114): My primary source for information on recent books in the mystery field. In reviews ranging from one-paragraph capsules to multi-page essays, the **DROOD** staff pick apart the latest novels and collections, with an eye towards social implications as well as plot and characterization. (S-8t)

★★★★★

DUB GOLEM #1 (50¢ from Wm. Dockery, 3226A River Ave., Columbus, GA 31904): Dockery seems to be in his own hermetic little world; his comics and words need to be taken on their own terms or not at all. They're neither real nor surreal, but glimpses into worlds that most of us can't comprehend, for we lack the key to understand the allusions. Curious stuff. (M-8)

★★★★★

DUMARS REVIEWS #2 ($1.50 from Terata Publications, PO Box 810, Hawthorne, CA 90251): This zine exists so that Denise can review the things she likes for the benefit of her friends. (Should I warn her that was how FF started?) This includes books, magazines, and restaurants. A special occult section collects literature and resources from the eerie side of things, while a few pages at the end are devoted to the poetry of Leonard Jansen. (D-16)

★★★★★

DUMPSTER DIVE #1 ($1 from 74 Osbourne Ave., Norwalk, CT 06855): A fun-loving punk zine that seems to be centered on the Anthrax scene. Lots of show reports on low-class but funny acts like GG Allin and Gwar, plus longish interviews with Mental Abuse, Toxic Reasons, the Exploited and others. There are also opinion pieces and zine reviews, but the whole thing is eyestrain city due to tiny print and crappy copying. (S-20t)

★★★★★

DUPLEX PLANET #94-96 ($1.50 from David Greenberger, PO Box 1230, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866): Coming up on its centennial issue, this is still as fun as ever. David talks to elderly friends and extracts their thoughts with a variety of bizarre questions. In #95, for example, he investigates their preferences for playing parts in current TV shows. Also publishes the occasional poem from one of the retirees. (D-16)

★★★★★

DURTY SKUM #26 ($1 from Carl & Kim, Vuldersstaat 111, 8000 Brugge, BELGIUM): These folks publish their punk zine in Dutch and then produce an English translation for those of us who aren't very cosmopolitan. Lots of interviews, including Thrilled Skinny, Negazione, and Vortex and more from all over the place. They also interview someone from Shell about claims that the company is mistreating South Africa and present a couple of scattered scene reports. (A5-24r)

★★★★★

THE EAGLE FORUM Aug.-Winter 1988 ($10/yr from eagle Education Fund, 1623 W. 102 Ave., Denver, CO 80221): If you think Phyllis Schlafly is funny, you'll find these conservatives to be hilarious. In the August issue, for example, they reveal that "Ecology" is a plot of British Marxists who want to take over America by sapping our precious bodily fluids or something. Winter exposes the Nazi connections of Planned Parenthood, and both issues are full of potshots at John denver. Lots more here, all of it seriously wedged. (T-20t)

★★★★★

EARSHOT JAZZ July 1988 ($15/yr from PO Box 85851, Seattle, WA 98145-2858): I don't know if it's just that they publish a wider variety of zines, but Seattle's musical community seems both healthy and diverse. All of EJ is devoted to a single genre (jazz, of course) and they find plenty of local talent to cover, easily filling a page with their calendar. Articles cover both old favorites and new talent. (S-16t)

★★★★★

EARTH FIRST! Vol. VIII #VIII ($3 from PO Box 2358, Lewiston, ME 04241): By now just about everyone has heard of this group of eco-terrorists and saboteurs. Besides carrying helpful hints about disabling bulldozers, this journal lets you know about actions around the world. More serious articles consider plans for things like "timber management" and what's wrong with them. There's some signs of new diversity in the journal these days; that's good. (T-40t)

★★★★★

EARTH ISLAND JOURNAL Summer 1988 ($25/yr from Earth Island Institute, 300 Broadway #28, San Francisco, CA 94133): An environmental mag that tracks a braod variety of international news. This one covers such diverse topics as dolphin kills (including responses to PR from various tuna companies), tourist damage in the Himalayas, patented lifeforms, the ecology of cocaine growing, and the greenhouse effect. (S-52t)

★★★★★

ECESIS #1 (Donation from PO Box 49032, Austin, TX 78765): A new progressive tabloid rooted in Austin's university communities. Topics include the rights of the Palestinians, demonstrations at the Republican National Convention, Kurdistan, and local problems like University expansion into communities that don't want it. Broadly left in orientation but not apparently tied to any particular group, as everyone from anarchists to socialists is represented here. (T-16)

★★★★★

ECOMEDIA BULLETIN #37-42 ($12/yr from PO Box 915, Stn. F, Toronto, ONT M4Y 2N9, CANADA): Anarchist and related news that comes out every two months. They're characterized by fierce opposition to the system in all its aspects. #40 has a preliminary report on the plea-bargaining that settled the Toronto ALF trial, while #42 goes into a bit more detail on the sentencing. 41 and 42 take a look at tactics used by the Shell saboteurs overseas. (HL-4t)

★★★★★

EDINBURGH WOMEN'S LIBERATION NEWSLETTER #58 (£3/5 issues from Edinburgh Women's Newsletter Group, 61A Broughton Street, Edinburgh, SCOTLAND): A hardcore feminist publication that seems to be mainly a resource rather than a journal in its own right. The majority of the contents are reviews, book recommendations, reports on live shows, and so on, together with an extensive list of contacts for women to help each other deal with life. (A4-22)

★★★★★

EGG AL'S NAKED CITY ($2 (?) from PO Box 278, Cambridge, MA 02238): The latest countercultural offering from the ex-publisher of **STREET**, including the story of how he was squeezed out of that project. There's also interviews with Paul Krassner and Mic McInnis and more stuff on the homeless uprising in Boston. Flakey and irreverent but sort of fun. (T-28t)

★★★★★

ELLIPSIS... #1 ($7.95 from 105A N. Santa Cruz Ave., Los Gatos, CA 95030): A new outlet for literature that doesn't quite fit in other places. For example, there's Robyn Parnell's "The Anti-Cancer Diet", a strange tale of homelessness and native intelligence. Or Don Voltz's "First Aid", one of the nicest short SF/horror pieces I've seen in a long time. Poets are represented as well, notably by strong work from Lyn Lifshin and John Grey. A class act, perfectbound for that respectable look. (D-75t)

★★★★★

EMERALD CITY COMIX AND STORIES #5-6 ($5.25/6 issues from PO Box 95402, Seattle, WA 98145): A variety of comics here, many from moving force Nils Osmer, but also including Burt Dodson (who does "Nuke"), Leonard Rifas, and Mike Tackett. There seems to be a lot of talent in the Northwest. They also run short stories, mostly with a stfnal edge. There's a great strip warning cat haters to see the error of their ways in #5. (T-8t)

★★★★★

END TIMES NEWSLETTER Vol. 4 #1 (Donation from PO Box 81526, Las Vegas, NV 89180): A while ago these folks were predicting the Rapture for September 12th, 1988. This issue explains why that's not a false prophecy: because "prophecy" must come from God, and God doesn't make mistakes, and the world didn't end, so it couldn't have come from God, so it was just human sin. Got it? Good. Then you can wait for the next trumpet of alarm. (S-6)

★★★★★

EOTU Dec. 1988 ($4 from 1810 W. State #115, Boise, ID 83702): A journal of wild-eyed experimental fiction with a well-developed sense of artful presentation. This time the hands-down winner is Herman Kluge's "Elvis vs. Godzilla", a playful tale of a modern apocalypse that bucks like a bronco with twists and changes. Also of note are Denise Dumars' poetic "Encarnacion Ultimo" and the addled historical dialogue of Gregory Burnham's "The Cocktail Party". (D-64t)

★★★★★

EQUAL TIME #172-174/5 ($30/yr from Star of the North Publishing Co., 711 W. Lake St. #505, Minneapolis, MN 55408): A paper for the Twin Cities gay & lesbian community. Though they do run some political and social news, the emphasis is on community events and culture. Gay theater comes in for a look in #172, with an interview and a short playlet. #174/5 reviews a batch of calendars and looks at the experiences of gay & lesbian siblings. (T-20t)

★★★★★

ERASER FACE #1 (25¢ & a stamp from 604 Sheridan Rd., Evansville, IN 47710): This is the "origins" issue of a new comic about a superhero eraser with a pencil for a mentor. It's as silly as it sounds. (M-8)

★★★★★

ERC NEWSLETTER Oct.-Dec. 1988 ($5 to $10/yr from PO Box 80, Floyd, VA 24091): The Educational Resource Cooperative continues to cover a wide range of interests. Besides the usual features like the Community Calendar & Bulletin board, the October issue ranges from war taxes to organic farming to astrology. Local support and networking even got them through a whooping cough epidemic in December. (S-12)

★★★★★

THE ERIK STINE NEWSLETTER Vol. X #MCICET ($2 from Chris Loughner, 605 SE 26th, Hillsboro, OR 97123): I don't know who Erik Stine is, but from the looks of this zine he just returned to town with more well-developed muscles than he had when leaving. This seems to have prompted a lot of ribbing here, with collage, lust, worship and sarcasm vying with each other for first place. (S-8)

★★★★★

EROSPIRIT Vol. 3 #11-Vol. 4 #1 ($2 from PO Box 35160, Albuquerque, NM 87176): A New Age zine of wide-ranging interests. Though there is a core of channelled material every issue, they seem to have been downplaying this in favor of other themes lately. #11 focuses on a coming shift in our ideas of economics, moving towards a sustainable society. Though some is maddeningly general and platitudinous, there are some interesting ideas here, and continuing interviews with Jose Arguelles. #1 is a "Special Prophecy Issue", cautiously optimistic about the future. (S-16)

★★★★★

ESTUDIO #12 ($10 from Sheila Holtz, The Institute, Box 18, 111 N. 49th St., Philadelphia, PA 19139): A collective art project that works extremely well. The heart of it is a series of original artworks by a few dozen contributors, working in media from rubber stamp to photocopier to crayon. These works are oganized around a common theme: in #12 it's "1988 The Year of the Golden Dragon/Money Talks". Then comes the "Annex" section, featuring more extensive works from one artist (Tom Curley in this issue), and finally a section of reviews and critiques of the experimental arts press. Ten bucks will buy you an issue, but 105 copies of your work and a buck will get you into one; write Sheila for more details. (S-100)

★★★★★

ETCETERA Vol. 4 #32 ($23/13 weeks from PO Box 8916, Atlanta, GA 30306): A weekly digest for the gay and lesbian community of Atlanta. There's a huge ad content here, indicating that there are plenty of others out there with similar inclinations. Contents include national and local political news, local letters, and an extensive calendar. Gays from out of the area might appreciate all the ads for 800 phone line services. (D-78t)

★★★★★

EUGENICS #1 ($1 *CASH* [trades preferred] from Jim Passin, PO Box 585, Chelmsford, MA 01824): Edited by Phil Riley, this is a new digest of strange ideas and propaganda from the marginals. Ed Lawrence contributes a couple of his dadata posters; X. Sharks Despot explains Communist brainwashing; and some shadowy organization called C.R.A.S.A.D. recommends not thinking to fool the Neoists. Strange manifestoes indeed. (D-20r)

★★★★★

EUTHANASIA Special Edition #1 ($3 from Ron, 12 Utica St., Lexington, MA 02173): Subtitled "Droolings", this is a special ugly art issue featuring exclusively work by Vince Ransid. Corpses, guns, strange sex, mutilation and other lovely subjects are the order of the day here, all in the best shocking black and white. Watch out for this guy. (S-24)

★★★★★

THE EVENT #28 ($14/4 issues from PO Box 203, Pequannock, NJ 07440): A journal of naturism, which is the current term for "cllothes-optional living". #28 has a strong theme, being mainly about art: modeling, photography (and possible unintended messages in amateur photographs), and first amendment rights. They also track access to nude beaches and follow legal cases, generally on the East Coast. (S-38t)

★★★★★

THE EVERGRATEFUL ($1.50 from The Gemstone Society, c/o Joe Cabot, PO Box 1865, Olympia, WA 98507-1865): That may not actually be the title; the layout on this huge two-part tabloid is so dense and free-flowing that it's hard to tell. The first section concentrates on the counterculture, from the sixties to the present, with lots of psychedelic collage and wild ideas. The second part contains more versions of the notorious Gemstone File, together with Christic Institute and other stuff to update them to the present. Hippie conspiracy theory and alternatives. (T-20t)

★★★★★

EVERYONE'S BACKYARD Vol. 6 #3-4 ($15/yr from CCHW, PO Box 926, Arlington, VA 22216): A newsletter from the "Toxics Movement" — people fighting dumps, incinerators, and other hi-tech means of waste disposal. What they advocate is less refuse and more recycling, but they don't concentrate on that. Instead, most of EB is devoted to ideas for hardball tactics for fighting the waste industry when they try to site in *your* backyard. #4 reports on a "defense of necessity" case in South Carolina that the blockaders of the waste facility actually won! (S-8t)

★★★★★

EXPERIMENTAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS Vol. IV #4 ($3.50 from PO Box 74, Nicasio, CA 94946): I think the attraction here is not so much that it's about specifically experimental musical instruments as that it's about building the darned things: a significant democratization of music. In this issue, coverage ranges from complex instructions for an Indian Tabla Puddi to sketches from an instrument workshop for children. Other periodical sources and significant recordings are also mentioned. Very well done. (S-20r)

★★★★★

EXPRESSO TILT! #8 ($1 (?) from 737 Wharton St., Philadelphia, PA 19147): A humor magazine with some off-the-wall ideas of what's funny. #8 includes photos from an obsessive Barbie designer, a review of a movie on bowling in Nicaragua, dirty limericks, and advice on riding Greyhound cross-country, as well as several very inscrutable stories. In a world of its own. (S-32t)

★★★★★

EXTORTION #5 (75¢ from 1207 S. Wall #343, Carbondale, IL 62901): A small zine that still manages to pack a lot in, thanks to even the longest interviews being only a few pages long. They're not focused entirely on the music, giving pages over to explaining what's wrong with MacDonalds , fighting the local tuition increase, and so on. This is the last issue as an independent zine, but it will still be around in combination with **THRASHERS DIGEST.** (D-20r)

★★★★★

EXTRA! Vol. 2 #2-3 ($24/yr from FAIR, 130 W. 25th St., New York, NY 10001): From Fairness and Accuracy In Media comes this newsletter dedicated to exposing the curiously selective coverage that major news stories receive in this country. Did you know our new President owns land in Texas that he can only sell to Caucasians, thanks to a restrictive deed? You would if you read #2. #3 looks at the coverage of such issues as nuclear weapons production plants and Chile's Pinochet. They also examine the rightwing biases of "public" TV news and talkshows. (S-16t)

★★★★★

EYEBALLS IN THE SKY #5 (The Usual from Tony Berry, 7 Causeway Mews, Robin Hood Way, Nottingham, NG2 1PT, UK): This SF zine isn't as fannish as some because it actually has a theme: Addictions and Obsessions. Hands-down the most gripping piece is Martin Tudor's account of his alcoholicism and subsequent partial recovery. Confessions from a couple of shoe collectors lighten up the overall tone of the zine, and in the end Tony ties it all neatly together. (A4-28)

★★★★★

The Last **FALSE POSITIVE** ($3 from Donna Kossy, PO Box 953, Allston, MA 02134): Donna's cleaned out the files for this final issue, but don't worry, there will still be the **KOOKS** magazine to kick around. Meanwhile, behind the color photocopy cover there are bits on art and women, including Pagan Kennedy's Fun Feminism Manifesto. (S-24)

★★★★★

THE FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTIONEERS' GUIDE Vol. 1 #4 ($2 from Impossible Dreams, PO Box 2251, Warner Robins, GA 31099): A collection of information for folks interested in attending science fiction conventions. Though their listing of upcoming conventions is not as exhaustive as the one in **SF CONVENTION REGISTER**, the print is a bit larger and they're putting in a few other features as well. This issue has short articles on things like Electrical Eggs, a group promoting equal access to cons, and convention artists. (D-16r)

★★★★★

FANTASY COMMENTATOR #38 ($4 from A. Langley Searles, 48 Highland Cir., Bronxville, NY 10708-5909): An extremely high-quality magazine about science fiction and fantasy with an emphasis on the pulp era. I was unexpectedly taken in this issue with E. F. Bleiler's history of **THE CHECKLIST OF FANTASTIC LITERATURE**, an ambitious golden-age project. There's also an extensive interview with Raymond Gallun, more notes from Sam Moskowitz, and a number of medium-long reviews. A nice bit of craft. (S-72)

★★★★★

FAN'TOONS #25-27 ($1.50 from Edd Vick, 5014-D Roosevelt Way NE, seattle, WA 98105): A minizine from Edd, with more art than most full-size sfanzines and more text than most minicomics. The size seems to work right for him, allowing packaging an "all-text" #25 or a Christmas issue of #27 (several lewd mistletoe jokes included) without undue trouble. Lots of fannish loccers and funny-animal artists here at all times. (M-32r)

★★★★★

FARCE #3 ($1 from The Paper Plant, 309 W. Martin St., Raleigh, NC 27601): A combination zine, with news and announcements from the North Carolina arts community in one half and original works in the other. Of the latter, I don't understand how Richard Butner's poem "Manifesto of the Rolling Men" can so perfectly capture what's wrong with this system — but it does. Also notable is the reprinted article about the Piedmont Peace Project. (S-16t)

★★★★★

FARMER BOB'S SOMETIMES NEWS & LOCAL REVIEW Vol. 1 #1 ($1 (?) from 1075 Olive Dr. #16, Davis, CA 95616): It doesn't seem to have occured to these folks that someone outside the area might like to subscribe to their attempt to capture the local flavor — but that's about their only oversight. There's a great mix here, from interviews with Robert Crumb and Aline Kominsky-Crumb to the trials of being named "Reagan" to alternative health care to a curious local housing development. And on top of everything else they plant trees every month to make up for publishing. (T-16t)

★★★★★

FELL SWOOP #13 ($1 (?) from 1521 N. Lopez St., New Orleans, LA 70119): A somewhat slapdash collection of stories and poems that are often quite disjointed. Some of the work is cut-up, other bits appear to have been nearly incoherent in the first place. But the cleverness of "Victims" by someone named x-ray makes this worth dipping lightly into. Layout by collage, but not overwhelmingly so. (S-20)

MAKING THE PUNISHMENT FIT THE CRIME
NRA
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eg. LITTERING

★★★★★

FE-MAIL #11 (50¢ & a stamp from Jeff Wood, PO Box 95198, Seattle, WA 98145-2198): A minicomic jam with works from 10 funny-animal artists on a common theme. This time it's the funny footwear issue, with torturous high heels, waffle stompers, and magic slippers in evidence. (M-16)

★★★★★

FERRET COMIX 10 ($1 (?) from David Roth, 2521 Irving S., Minneapolis, MN 55405): Lots of brand-new and uncensored strips featuring this definitely not-cute animal, as well as some pretty dismissable material from guest artists. Topics here include sex, death, violence, torture, and other things not suitable for anyone of tender age. In fact, one of these strips is redrawn after censoring by another underground zine that found it *too* disgusting. (S-16)

★★★★★

FESTERING BRAINSORE #2 ($2 from David R. Williams, 249 Tremont St. #1, North Tonawanda, NY 14120): "The Ultimate Splatterzine" for folks who like gory films and the culture surrounding them. Ghastly necrophiliac comics, reviews of movies most people never want to see, deadly fiction and a distinct lack of good taste characterize this zine. (S-40)

★★★★★

FEVER PITCH #8 ($7 & age statement from Jabberwocky Graphix, PO Box 166255, Irving, TX 75016): A "journal of erotica" presented in the form of comics and pinups. It's full of incredibly busty women and well-hung men, with lots of splashy secretions. Rather more fantastic than realistic, in other words, but still close enough to reality to get one hot under the collar. Perhaps a bit more directed at men than women but liable to be enjoyed by erotophiles of either sex. Incredible full-color wraparound cover by Brad Foster, Larry Dickinson, and Allen Freeman. (S-40)

★★★★★

FICTION WRITERS MAGAZINE #28 ($5 from Romantic Times Publishing, 163 Joralemon St., Brooklyn Heights, NY 11201): A magazine for the writer who is serious and doesn't mind hitting what are often seen as marginal markets: Christian fiction, regency romances, and black confessions magazines are a few suggested outlets in this issue. They publish lots of detailed suggestions, run a manuscript evaluation service (brochure for SASE) and hotline, and generally seem to have a lot to offer. (S-66t)

★★★★★

FIFTH ESTATE Vol. 23 #3 (75¢ from PO Box 02548, Detroit, MI 48202): A generally anarchist tabloid, though they try to avoid the ossification of demanding "anarchism". Rebellions in Palestine, Korea and Detroit (stopping the garbage incinerator) take up a lot of space here. Earth First! actions, an analysis of "the decadence of capitalism" (translated from a French periodical) and a discussion of the Pentagon blockade also get major coverage. FE continues to be one of the ideologically most developed periodicals in this area; though you may not agree with them, you can't help respecting their thought. (T-28t)

★★★★★

FILE 13 #2 (45¢ postage from Mark Lo, 115 Wedgewood Cir., Eatontown, NJ 07724): A tight little music zine that claims to exist to print things rejected by other zines. #2 includes interviews with Venus Fly Trap and Stripminers, other features, and enjoyable short record reviews. (S-17t)

★★★★★

FILE 770:76 ($5/5 issues from Mike Glyer, 5828 Woodman Ave. #2, Van Nuys, CA 91401): News of the science fiction field, with some emphasis on fans but news of pros as well. Apart from the results of this year's Hugo Awards, #76 is filled with an interview with Algis Budrys on Writers of the Future, Bridge Publications, and their (lack of) connections with Scientology. (S-12r)

★★★★★

FILMCLIPS #1 ($2 from Dan Karpf, PO Box 1335, New York, NY 10013): A newsletter billing itself as "The Movie Memorabilia Classifieds". There are a few ads in the first issue, including one from a VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA fanzine, a want ad from someone who wants the music to LOGAN'S RUN, and a Freddy Krueger model kit. But for two bucks, this is awful slim. (S-4t)

★★★★★

FILM EXPERIENCE #1 ($1 from Randy Johnston, 3115 NW 41 St., Oklahoma City, OK 73112): A new zine about psychotronic films (though Randy doesn't use the term) that's off to a pretty good start. Killer shrews, leather zombies in space, and the living dead dress up this issue, wrapped around the autobiographical "Confessions of a Low-Budget Film Addict". The crisp layout and nice illustrations show what can be done on a low budget with a bit of care. (S-26t)

★★★★★

FILM THREAT #17 ($3.50 from PO Box 951, Royal Oak, MI 48068): This is the special "James Dean" issue of this cinema zine, with all sorts of bizarre tributes to his memory including a visit to the hometown and an alternate-world filmography. There are also interviews with Jim Backus, Elvira, and Ranier Werner Fassbinger, and somewhat less than the usual assortment of hate mail and reviews of unknown shorts. (S-68t)

★★★★★

FINE MADNESS Vol. 5 #2 ($4 from PO Box 15176, Seattle, WA 98115-0176): A fine presentation of poetry and prose, crisp as fall leaves. The writers here walk the line between tradition and experimentalism, working in a daring but not incomprehensible mode, for the most part successfully. Nelson Bentley checks in with "Blake Island Apocalypse", a wonderful romp; Jon Azrak's short story "Jars" is a nice exploration of love and life. There are dozens of others here, too. (D-80t)

★★★★★

FIREHEART Fall/Winter 1988-89 ($3 from PO Box 462, Maynard, MA 01754): Appropriately for the season, this pagan magazine is focused on the darker side of things. There's a whole section on pagans coping with Death, an interview with Oz (who feels a special relationship with Hekate), notes on the Eleusinian mysteries, and more. The magazine has a quiet, solid feel about it, written by people who are happy with their paganism and want to explore its parameters. Oriethyia's words on women being oppressed even at pagan festivals strike very strongly at a common problem in many alternative movements. (S-48t)

★★★★★

THE FISH #1 ($1 (?) from Art Humble, PO Box 3232, Gloucester, MA 01930): A new attempt to say graphically things that cannot be said in words, because they're too dangerous or too silly. Centered in a sort of Illuminati-meets-SubGenius universe, these fishy folks present pages filled with cryptic men in hats, assassins and their victims, spacecraft, and winged bureaucrats. There are a few texts as well, but they only deepen the mystery. (S-26)

★★★★★

FISH DRUM #3 ($2 from 626 Kathryn Ave., Santa Fe, NM 87501): Guest-edited by Suzi Winson, this issue contains a number of strange and strong literary pieces. Much of this is women's writing, with themes frank and open lurking behind words that are suggestive and sketchy. There's love here, and life, in prose and poetry, and thoughts about connecting with other people. For a 15¢ stamp, you can get the postcard version of "What Trees Dream About", a poetic preview of the planned fifth-issue chapbook by Leo Romero. (D-40t)

★★★★★

FIST IN YOUR FACE #1 ($1 from 383 Markham St., 2nd Fl., Toronto, ONT M6C 2K8, CANADA): Well, this is certainly a new idea: a magazine full of true personal stories about getting beat up. These range from playground recollections to streetcorner encounters to muggings. Not very fun stuff, but oddly fascinating. (HL-12r)

★★★★★

FIVE CENTS' WORTH Sept./Oct.-Nov./Dec. 1988 (2 stamps from Gregory Nicoll, 3200 Linden Dr., Lawrenceville, GA 30244): A personalzine of beer-drinking, con attendance, splatter filmmaking, and Volkswagens. Gregory has some interesting things to say, but they're all delivered in a rather thick written dialect, making this a bit of a chore to wade through. The November ish features a bunch of splatter film reviews, mostly of movies with numbers after their names, rated by a count of chainsaws. (S-16)

★★★★★

FLASHBACK #2-4 ($18/yr from LeRoy Harris, 3617 N. 35th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85017): I can't help thinking I'm missing some in-jokes in this "Avant Garde Look at Coin-op Americana". Dedicated chiefly to pinball machines and jukeboxes, it looks like much of this is devoted to making fun of other magazines and collectors in the field. Lots of glossy photos, collectors' stories, and phony advertisements. (S-20t)

★★★★★

A FLAWLESS MAN ($1 from Weaponshop Studios, 48 N. Prospect St., Oberlin, OH 44074): The first gay small-press comic I can remember getting. The story here is one of love won and lost between two guys, when they're broken up by the title character — an obsession of Val, the artist of the pair. In fact, the Flawless Man is drawn by Val, and becomes the center of much tension. (D-20)

★★★★★

THE FLIGHT OF THE EAGLE Vol. 7 #6-7 ($25/yr from Dr. Larry Holden, PO Box 1026, Loveland, CO 80539): Holden is running for President as the candidate of the Human Party; he hopes to take a serious shot at the office in the year 2000. Meanwhile this is the newsletter of his attempt to build a grassroots, progressive, vaguely New Age party by talking to common folks around the country. He definitely has a vision, but the precise details are not yet clear to me — except that he has a deep and abiding faith in common sense to solve our problems. (S-6t)

★★★★★

FLIPPERBALL FLOOZIE (One 25¢ stamp from Pinball Pete, PO Box 6032, East Lansing, MI 48826): A story of puppy love, pinball, and the sixties. In amidst some comments on the sociology of the time, Pete explains how he finally lost his virginity thanks to his pinball prowess and an attack from the National Guard. (D-16)

★★★★★

FLIPSIDE #57-58 ($1.50 from PO Box 363, Whittier, CA 90608): One gargantuan chunk of punk rock just waiting to be digested. They do all sorts of neat letters and tour reports and stuff even apart from the music coverage. #57 includes Crimpshrine, Frightwig, Operation Ive, a decade-old Sham 69 interview, and a whole lot more, including the most LA punk photos of any zine out there. In #58: Government Issue, D.R.I., Gwar, Sonic Youth, and Pussy Galore. (S-80t)

★★★★★

THE FLORIDA CONTACT LIST #8 (SASE from sephy Holst, PO Box 38, Terra Ceia, FL 33591): A new music-oriented listing of folks in Florida. This includes bands, promoters, radio stations, zines, designers, and retailers. The listing is bare bones, just giving names and addresses, but it's updated monthly to keep it accurate. (S-5)

★★★★★

FMEDIA! Vol. 2 #11 ($2 from Bruce Elving, 241 Anderson Rd., Esko, MN 55733-9413): Everything you always wanted to know about FM radio, and then some. Along with lists of which stations around the country are doing what, Bruce tracks FCC rulemaking and changes in the direction of this medium. #11 includes some fascinating correspondence on deceptive tactics being used by some Christian broadcasters to get FCC approval without public outcry, like listing their home bases in ghost towns instead of the cities they're actually in. (S-8t)

★★★★★

FOOD FOR BIRDS, PEOPLE FOR PROFIT #8 (*Lots* of cash or contribution of publishable material from Mid-Coast Sub-Church of Paranoia, RFD 279, Rockland, ME 04841): Basically a collection of rants and raves from various players in the SubGenius fringe. The subject of this particular collection is Religion, Politics, and Economics, with essays ranging from clear to cloudy. Press run is limited, and appearance is infrequent; the only way to be assured of a copy is to get involved in #9, the Sex, Drugs and Rock & Roll issue, before it comes out. (S-54)

★★★★★

FOOTSTEPS Vol. 5 #2 ($2/yr from PS Publications, Drawer 707, Derby, KS 67037-0707): A New Age newsletter which seems to be devoted largely towards advertising the services and goods of its staff in areas like crystals, audio tapes, and channelled readings. #2 also contains an extensive list of other New Age and metaphysical periodicals. (S-12)

★★★★★

FOR YOUR SKULL #17 (25¢ & a stamp from Carrie, 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): You don't need to hang around the club scene in LA when you read this — you can just watch Carrie make fun of it in great comics. There's also Bob Sheridan doing an interview on his art, some music reviews, Shane Williams on detective books, and some crazy Sarah Folkman comics/lyrics. Lots in a small package. (D-16)

★★★★★

FOSFAX #133-134 ($1 from FOSFA, PO Box 37281, Louisville, KY 40233-7281): Somewhere in Kentucky there are a batch of science fiction fans, and they manage to put out a pretty good zine. There's a mixture of fannish news, real-world politics, and book reviews — lots of book reviews in #133 — here. The lettercolumn in particular is quite full and well-done, giving space even to stupid opinions to promote controversy. (S-32r)

★★★★★

FOUND BOOK ($1 from Brian, PO Box 131, Block Island, RI 02807): Just what the title (which is rubber-stamped on the cover) says. This booklet is made up of sheets of newspaper (**THE NEW YORK TIMES**, if you care) cut down to mini size, turned sideways, and stapled. Take it as an artistic statement or a waste of time or an exploration of media and communications, as you will. (M-32)

★★★★★

FOUR ALARM CHARM #4 (SASE from Ernest Drudge, PO Box 10578, Minneapolis, MN 55440): Just a place for Ernest to talk about music he's listened to lately. In this issue, that includes records from Penelope Houston, GG Allin, Masters of the Obvious, Social Distortion, Live Skull, and a dozen or so more. (S-4r)

★★★★★

FOUR-ALARM FIRESIGNAL #16 (Free from Elayne Wechsler, PO Box 1609, Madison Sq. Stn., New York, NY 10159): A pretty-much authorized newsletter for fans of the Firesign Theatre. Elayne and a far-flung network of correspondents keep up with the latest doing of the guys involved, as well as tracking old releases and re-releases (like the recent CD of How Can You Be In Two Places...). They're also working hard to make rare audio, video, and print material available to the die-hard fan. (S-6r)

★★★★★

FRAN AN' MAABL #2 ($3.50 from Edward Zolna, PO Box 1278, Roslyn, PA 19001): A vast improvement over the first issue of this comic with vaguely animal-like characters. The main plot progresses nicely, with the addition of depth to the characters to complement the sphericality of the female leads. Even better is the amusing self-referential 8-page filler comic at the end — though such touches are sprinkled throughout. (S-64)

★★★★★

FREAKBEAT #5 (£3 from Ivor Trueman, 23 Parkside Row, Hounslow, Middx., TW3 2BD, ENGLAND): This is a purely amazing zine of psychedelic music. I wish I could show you a page, for every one is printed in two colors, typically red text with a green picture overlaid. Fortunately they give you colored acetates with the thing so you can view the two halves separately without going crazy. They also give you a very nice flexidisc as well as articles on bands like the Flaming Lips, Always August, Green Pajamas, Webcore, and the Morticians. They ask for payment in either IMO or cash sterling, but it's well worth the hassle. (A4-34r)

★★★★★

FRED 'N' MARVIN #1 (35¢ from C&T Graphics, 14 E. State St. #1, Mt. Morris, NY 14510): A minicomic with characters and a plot and everything — more unusual than you might think in that regard. Marvin is a comics artist and Fred is his boss, who manages to take advantage of the poor schmuck. There's a few good laughs here and decent art. (M-12)

★★★★★

FREEDOM NETWORK NEWS #19 ($20/yr from Libertarian International, 9308 Farmington Dr., Richmond, VA 23229): An international newsletter of the libertarian movement. They tend to be pretty optimistic about battling the state, printing hopeful news bits from South Africa and the Eastern Bloc as well as Western Europe and the USA. #19 came with **INDEX ON LIBERTY**, a listing of hundreds of newsletters and organizations around the world — separately available for $2.50. (S-10t)

★★★★★

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION #10 ($1 from Frank, 4992 Indian Trail Rd., Northampton, PA 18067): A hardcore zine that doesn't shy away from oi and other often-hated forms of music, though they (and the groups they talk to, like Oi Polloi) distance themselves from the racists. Nice graphics including a killer skull-filled cover and short interviews make this pretty fun to read through. Lots of record reviews too. (S-16)

★★★★★

THE FREEDOM WRITER Vol. V #6-7 (Donation from PO Box 589, Great Barrington, MA 01230): A newsletter that tries to keep a firm wall between church and state. They do this mainly by keeping an eye on the religious right, and publishing letters from those with opposing points of view. #7 has the first part of what looks like a real good review of the antics of the wannabe rock censors, concentrating on their anti-semitism. (S-4t)

★★★★★

THE FREEMAN Nov. 1988-Jan. 1989 (On Request from Foundation for Economic Education, Irvington-On-Hudson, NY 10533): This libertarian analysis journal seems farther right all the time, but that's only because I'm moving left. Still, I wonder that anyone disapproves on economic grounds of supplying clean needles to junkies, or believes selling the airwaves to the highest bidder will give better radio. On the other hand, they are thoughtful and consistent. The January issue features an analysis of the failure of the Tucker car, suggesting it wasn't deliberate conspiracy that did it in. (D-48t)

★★★★★

FREE PRESS NETWORK Vol. 7 #4 ($25/yr from PO Box 15548, Columbus, OH 43215): A Libertarian-based organization for those who believe in a strongly unfettered press. They run a mix of opinion pieces on the subject, news reports of current developments, and news from their own functions and awards. (S-8t)

★★★★★

FREFANZINE #73 ($2 from Seth Fehrs, 805 1/2 Onslow St., Durham, NC 27705): It's been a while since I've seen this libertarian amateur press association, but it hasn't changed a whole lot. It's still strong on chit-chat and relatively low on active anarchist writing, more homey than revolutionary. #73 features a lot of Avi Naftel's court documents, accusations from Bob Black, and contributions from Bob Shea and Neal Wilgus, among others. (S-202)

★★★★★

FROSTBITE FALLS FAR-FLUNG FLIER Vol. 3 #2 ($1.25 from Charles Ulrich, c/o Swick, 1215-D Palomas SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108): A newsletter for fans of Jay Ward cartoon shows including Rocky and his Friends and The Bullwinkle Show. Charles prints a lot of trivia, discusses the structure and jokes of various shows, and helps people reminisce about one of the more high-brow cartoons ever done. (S-10)

★★★★★

FTA/PHOENIX Vol. 5 #5 (The Usual from SFAV, Box 1772, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y3, CANADA): The Science Fiction Association of Victoria recognizes that the main reason for SF clubs is to party, and so they tend to be a bit long between issues. I think they managed two in 1988. Anyhow, this one includes accounts of meetings and camping trips, a few zine reviews, and a couple of pieces of serialized fan fiction. (HL-18r)

★★★★★

FUCK THE TORIES #5 (The Usual from 22 Denbigh Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 2ER, ENGLAND): From out of the science fiction fandom wing of things comes this politically-aware zine. They're somewhere on the left or progressive side of things, but this only comes out in orientation rather than polemics. That is, the articles are more likely to be about experiences at the Worldcon or cleaning the house than about the timing of insurrection or destroying cruise missiles. There was a fannish-Trotskyite joke which *I* thought was rather funny, but most people won't get it. (A4-22)

★★★★★

FULL DISCLOSURE #17 ($1.50 from PO Box 8275-FF, Ann Arbor, MI 48107): A tabloid that tries to keep track of government surveillance, anti-IRS lawsuits, and similar things. #17 includes notes on filing bankruptcy to get out of back taxes, when the cops can stop you on the streets, the NSA's interception of long-distance calls, and cheap hidden surveillance equipment. The ads are a trip too, from legal alternatives to mace to gold at $200 an ounce. (T-20t)

★★★★★

FUN Aug.-Oct. 1988 ($1 from 919 S. Main #104, Royal Oak, MI 48067): A humor tabloid from the lovely scenic Detroit area that's about as fast and loose as **NATIONAL LAMPOON** used to be when it was still funny & your mother wouldn't let you buy it. The August issue is all comics, including some wicked parodies of major strips. September saw the Best Of the past rise to haunt us again. October is back to usual, with sex tips, how to get rid of Haloween trickers, Barbie and Ken nightclubbing, and strange things buried in fine print. (T-24t)

★★★★★

F.U.T.U.R.E. Vol 5 #2-3 ($2 from PO Box 228, Butte, ND 58723): The title stands for "Forming Unity Toward Ultimate Regenerative Evolution", which hints a bit at their point of view. They're trying to help chart a way into a good future, and as a result hop around from healing techniques to the effects of nuclear tests to new ideas for education. Articles are reprinted from all over as well as written in-house. #3 has a long discussion of the Indian goddess Sakti. (S-14)

★★★★★

FUTURE FANZINE #10 ($1.50 from 16 Birchwood Common, Lancaster, NY 14086): A journal of small press comics that isn't too ambitious but does what it does well. The main feature in #10 is a longish interview with Tim Corrigan, who reveals that SPCE is coming back from the grave. More than half the zine is taken up with David Cushman's reviews of small press titles. (D-24t)

★★★★★

GA #9 (25¢ from 10 Caravella Ln., Namuet, NY 10954): A skate zine that's all skating and no music, or very little. The photos are clearer than in most skatezines, and the layout is bizarre and obviously involves a lot of hand-assembly. Contains an extensive list of other skatezines as well as screwy collages and cartoons and even a bonus sticker. (D-16r)

★★★★★

GAJOOB #1 ($1 (?) from Bryan Baker, PO Box 3201, Salt Lake City, UT 84110): This one seems to emanate from the cassette culture — at least it leads off with an interview with cassette music person Tom Furgas, There are also some bands interviewed — Da Neighbors and Arbitrator — and various bits of review flotsam. Letters & ads the just strike the editor's fancy are also included. (HL-20t).

★★★★★

THE GARDEN #5 ($5/6 months from Ely Park Apts. #56-4, Binghamton, NY 13905): A Green/anarchist tabloid that seems mostly interested in spreading the word about a lot of things instead of grinding any particular axes. In #5, they pass on news from the New England Rainbows and the Anarchist Anti-Racist Network. There's also articles on the holocaust of Native Americans, the laws about dope, and other aspects of repression. Art and poetry and letters give it all a friendly feel. (T-12t)

★★★★★

GARGOYLE #35 ($7.95 from Paycock Press, PO Box 30906, Bethesda, MD 20814): Back after a bit of a break, this literary magazine is a fair-sized paperback book. Editor Richard Peabody publishes a ton of poetry and fiction, much of it revolving around elusive relationships. There's also a feature section on Bukowski's reception in Germany, with a Bukowski interview, a talk with his translator, and original letters. Lots of reviews too, and some arty photographs. A quality production that's quite overwhelming while not getting distant from the readers. (S-306t)

★★★★★

THE GATE Jan. 1989 ($1.25 from PO Box 43518, Richmond Heights, OH 44143): An entry-level Fortean zine. They tend to do a fair number of basic articles on widely-known curious phenomena. For example, this issue has a couple pages on Jack the Ripper as well as an evaluation of channeled tapes from contactees (which, says the reviewer, are pathetically senseless). There's also Stan Gordon's column of strange happenings in Pennsylvania, fish nibbling people, and the Lizard Man. (S-16)

★★★★★

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS Vol. 16 #20 ($33/49 issues from 62 Berkeley, ST., Boston, MA 02116): A national lesbian & gay weekly paper that ranges widely. In #20, this means everything from feature articles on lesbian/gay life in *East* Germany, to prisoner support work, to a raging letter-column debate over (re)claiming the word "queer". There's also a smattering of legal and medical news as well as a fairly hefty classified section. (T-16t)

★★★★★

GENESIS 2000 Vol. 1 #1 (Donation from PO Box 754, Williamsburg, VA 23187): A journal of religious thought and exploration, devoted to "the great religious questions from a critically informed Biblical perspective". While editor James Tabor is convinced of the truth of the Old and New Testaments, he starts with looks at such basic questions as whether God exists, what He's up to, and whether there's a point to it all. Commentary from all, including skeptics or believers in other religions, is invited. (S-24t)

★★★★★

GET SMART #5 ($2.50 from John F. Kelly, 30 Cottage Pl., Tarrytown, NY 10591): A humor zine that reserves its hardest smacks for real celebrities on the plausible theory that we marginals are just too unimportant. There's a hilarious U2 interview in this issue, as well as comics featuring the devil and the first part of a hardboiled dick story featuring Jaye P. Morgan's daughter. It's all topped by the definitive editorial on the greenhouse effect. (D-36)

★★★★★

GET STUPID #10 ($2 *Cash* from Fishmonger Grafix Studios, 25 Grant St., Cambridge, MA 02138): A puzzling collection of collage and comics. Best thing here is a toss-up between Tony Fitzgerald's "Captain Marsupial" strip and the continuing "Land of Endless Slack" psycho-comics. Much painstaking work goes into the spacious collages as well, drawing on a seemingly-endless array of old photos and modern scientific drawings. No inquiries answered without SASE. (S-22)

★★★★★

GLASNOST #12 ($5 from Center for Democracy in the USSR, 358 W. 30th St. #1-A, New York, NY 10001): The English translation of the paper of the same name published independently in Moscow. It seems quite remarkable that these opinions and critiques of the system are allowed to be published in the USSR, albeit with continuing harassment. Topics include the ills of the economic system, closure of cooperative publishing house, and an analysis of the "rights" in the Soviet constitution. (S-48t)

★★★★★

GLC VOICE #198-199 ($2 from 1624 Harmon Pl. #210, Minneapolis, MN 55403): "For Gays, Lesbians and Civilized straights", this paper is mostly devoted to medical, legal and political issues concerning gays (though there are a few pages of local culture as well). Both of these issues have AIDS info from John Lauritsen, claiming in #198 that the incidence of new cases is dropping, and in #199 that AZT is "iatrogenic genocide". They've also been running a series on gay history. (T-16t)

★★★★★

GLITCH NEWS Vol. IV #8-11 ($10/12 issues from PO Box 4429, Austin, TX 78765): One of the most visible parts of the vibrant Austin music scene. #8 previews the bands we can expect on the next Glitch Sampler compilation album. #9 reports from the Great Austin Rhythm & Blues Bash, a trip back to rock's roots. #10 has the annual zine listing, with short reviews, some not duplicating those you'll find in FF. A nice package with a local feel but interesting outside the area. (S-16t)

★★★★★

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES Summer 1988 (Donation from Augsburg College, 731-21st Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55454): These folks believe that learning about other cultures will prepare us to make more informed, and compassionate, decisions. The summer issue includes a long account of conditions and trends in the Phillipines, some thoughts on the homogenizing effects of the global marketplace, and a comparison between Detroit and El Salvador. (S-12t)

★★★★★

GLOBAL RESTORATION MAGNET #5 (SASE from Dave Coulter, 206 S. Summit, Villa Park, IL 60181): "Restoration" refers to trying to get an ecosystem back to its original condition. Dave has been working on doing this in some local prairieland, and this issue reports on his successes in chopping out invasive weeds and, through controlled burning, rejuvenating the native species. (S-4)

★★★★★

GOOD CLEAN FUN #2 ($2 from Gene Mahoney, 3506 Emerson, Palo Alto, CA 94306): A pretty funny comic strip that's been gracing college papers and is now looking for wider exposure. Gene's characters deal with the generation gap in new and embarassing ways. Also included are works from Ace Backwords and Granger Davis, and a few pieces of poetry. (S-14)

★★★★★

GOOD DAY SUNSHINE #45 ($2.50 from Liverpool Productions, 397 Edgewood Ave., New Haven, CT 06511-4013): A fanzine for Beatles fans — and yes, there are still lots of them out there. There's plenty of Beatles gossip and news here, but I was most fascinated by the reviews of bootleg disks. Apparently (1) new one are still coming out and (2) there are lots of fake bootleg outtakes — released versions of songs doctored to sound like unreleased ones. It's amazing what people will do for money. (S-44)

★★★★★

GOODIES #55-57 (75¢ for 55 or 57; $1.50 for #56; age statement either way from Jabberwocky Graphix, PO Box 166255, Irving, TX 75016): A minicomic of T&A — lots of busty women (and the occasional man deeply intertwined with them) by a variety of artists. #56 is larger then usual, and includes some erotic video review by editor Brad Foster. Pretty steamy stuff overall — sort of mini-pinups for the most part. (M-12)

★★★★★

THE GRATE ($1 from John Bergin, 4503 Washington St., Kansas City, MO 64111): A morbid little minicomic in John's easily recognizable dark and gloomy style. This is either an allegory of love, a fantastic account of city life, or...something else entirely. In any case, it's much artier than most minis. (M-28)

★★★★★

GREEN ACTION Vol. 5 #3 ($20/10 issues from PO Box 2044, Cottonwood, AZ 86326): A Green publication that wants a relatively loose definition of who is a Green. In this issue there's a good article on the history of U.S. Greens, calling for opening up the current exclusionary organizations. Other features range from a report on the attempted takeover of the Peace & Freedom Party in California to the state of the Brazilian rainforest. Readable and with a good sense of humor. (T-20t)

★★★★★

GREEN EGG #83 ($3 from PO Box 1542, Ukiah, CA 95482): A Wiccan journal from the sixties which took a long break but is now back in full force. They are especially active in two areas: environmentalism, and fighting the hysterical linkage of pagans with child abuse, ritual sacrifice, and whatever else the right wing is fantasizing these days. There are several good articles on the the latter topic in #83, plus a feisty forum of letters and much else. (S-42t)

★★★★★

THE GREENHELL GAZETTE #1-3 ($1 (?) from PO Box 6687, Albany, NY 12206): A locally-free paper with a scattered view of the world. The contents are a mishmash of humor, political protest, local in-jokes (name the Civic Center contest), and ideas on screwy ways to spend you time. They also publish strange poetry and psycho-nutso art. #3 contains several tributes to the closing of the Reagan era — Bush probably won't be nearly as fun to make fun of. (T-12)

★★★★★

GREEN LETTER Vol. 4 #2-3 (Donation from PO Box 9242, Berkeley, CA 94709): It's sometimes a bit hard to tell what's "Green" about this tabloid, since most of it is a mix of short articles on environmental problems around the world. But community organizing is a strong secondary focus, and there are occasional but inspiring stories of groups that have actually done something. As an insert, each issue carries **IN SEARCH OF GREENER TIMES**, the "official" Green movement publication from the Committees of Correspondence. (T-20t)

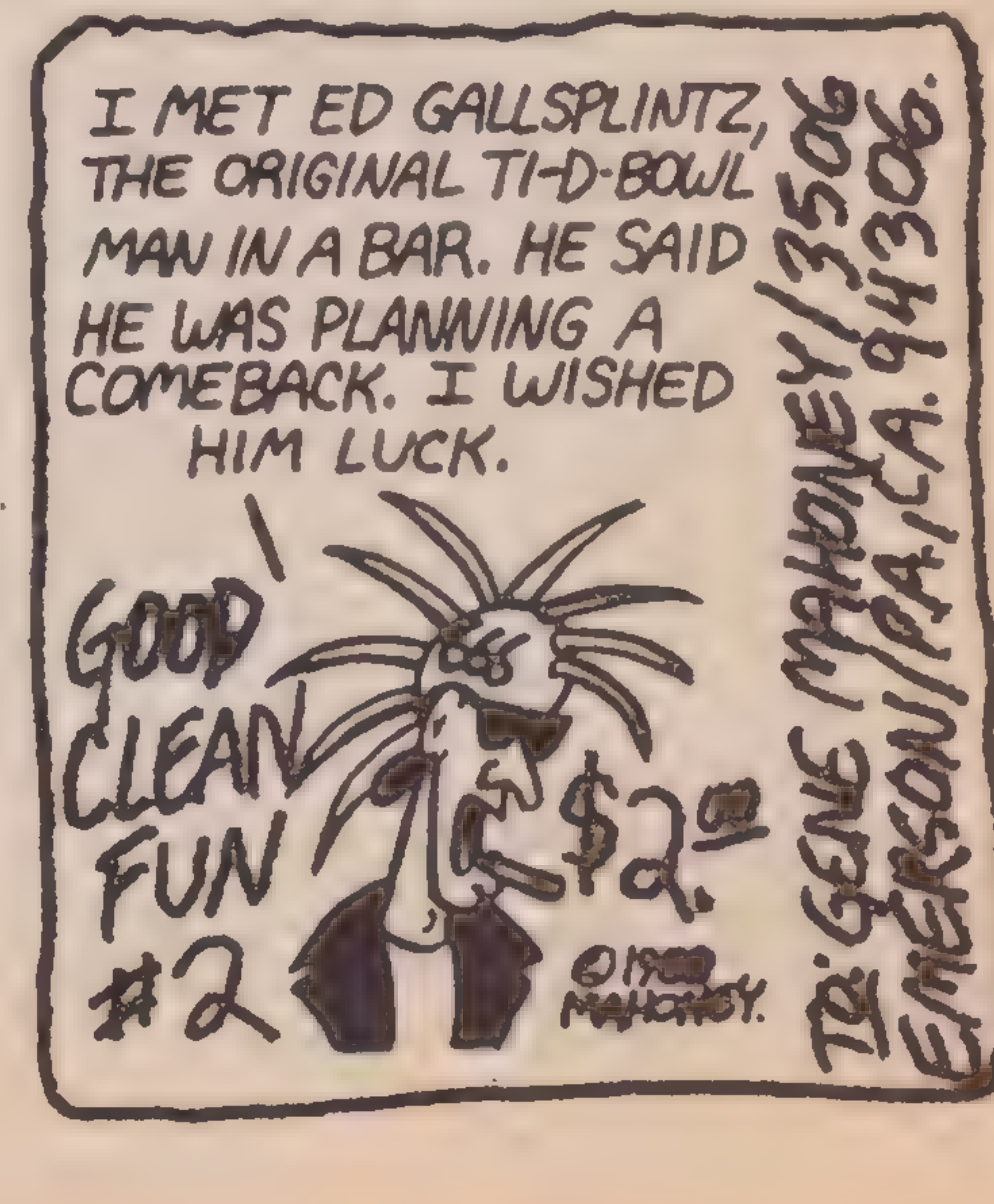
★★★★★

GREEN PERSPECTIVES #12-13 ($1 from PO Box 111, Burlington, VT 05402): A rather intellectual "Left Green Publication" from people who share the general perspective of the social ecologists. In #12, Gary Sisco re-opens the debate on violence and nonviolence, trying to show that there is a moral position short of absolute pacifism that still avoids the evils of armed revolutionary struggle imposed by a vanguard. #13 examines some of the current split in the German Greens between "Realos" and "Fundis". (S-8t)

★★★★★

GREEN SYNTHESIS #29 ($10/8 issues from League for Ecological Democracy, PO Box 1858, San Pedro, CA 90733): A networking publication for Greens and those of their ilk across the United States. This issue is strong on conference and workshop reports, and perhaps a bit weaker than usual on news bits. They seem to be moving in the direction of more feature articles as their circulation grows with the movement. (S-16t)

★★★★★


I MET ED GALLSPLINTZ, THE ORIGINAL TI-D-BOWL MAN IN A BAR. HE SAID HE WAS PLANNING A COMEBACK. I WISHED HIM LUCK.
GOOD CLEAN FUN #2
$2.00
TO: GENE MAHONEY/3506 EMERSON/PA./CA. 94306.
©1988 MAHONEY.

GRIND Vol. 1 #6-8 (50¢ from Richard Green, PO Box 32, Old Bridge, NJ 08857): Short and sweet coverage of new films from the psychotronic end of the spectrum. Richard sticks to current-release trash instead of videos, and so #6 includes Patty Hearst, Alien Nation, and Halloween 4 (none of which get a very good review). #7 takes apart Ernest Saves Christmas, among other flicks. #8 has Richard's best & worst lists for the year. (S-2)

★★★★★

GRINDHOUSE #1 ($5/yr from J. Adler, c/o SLP, PO Box 7460, Grand Central Stn., New York, NY 10163-6030): A new entry into the world of crazed movie reviewing. Judging by the handwriting the reviewer is as psychotic as the films; letters wriggle about the page and change size and direction at will. Covered in the premiere ish are Sorority House Massacre, Phantasm II, American Gothic and lots more. (D-8)

★★★★★

GRINDHOUSE II-III (50¢ from Vincent Basilicato, 59 McDole Rd., Ellenville, NY 12428): Not to be confused with the above, although still from the world of B movies. Vincent is actually interested in classic TV as well, with articles on couch potatohood and mixed live/animation films in #II. #III includes a Times Square tale and a checklist for the TV syndication addict. There are also movie reviews, but it's nice to have a break into other things as well. (D-16r)

★★★★★

GROUND-O #2 ($1 from Tom Bruce, 634 Rickert Rd., Sellersville, PA 18960): Interviews with Miracle Legion and Mamie Van Doren, but this isn't your typical music zine. There's a lot of other strange stuff here: far-right familist propaganda held up to ridicule, stories of strange teenage sexuality. CBGB's trivia questions, and more. Definitely not in the usual mold. (D-20r)

★★★★★

GROWING #4 (25¢ from Duncan, 4946 W. Point Way, W.V.C., UT 84120): A small zine with punk sensibilities. Contents include short poetry/lyrical stuff, interviews (Black Cabbage, Warlock Pinchers, No Fraud), and more. The graphic layout is real nice. About the only thing I didn't like was the particularly illogical animal rights column — I agree with the conclusions, but some of the arguments are awfully silly. (D-20r)

★★★★★

GRUB #70 ($3 from Dragonfly Farm, Lake St. Peter, ONT, K0L 2K0, CANADA): A mix of whatever the members of the Dragonfly community and their contacts felt like writing. This ranges from short fiction to discussions of free trade to anarchist comics to news abotu Greenpeace to the local cafe to who knows what. There's an energetic and hopeful spirit in the most of it, and I find **GRUB** a fun read. (S-52)

★★★★★

GUIDELINES NEWSLETTER Vol. 1 #2 ($3 from PO Box 608, Pittsburg, MO 65724): A new markets listing for beginning writers. The new idea here is their ability to supply you with guidelines for submitting to dozens of markets from one central source (editors are invited to get in touch about being a part of this). They also publish market news and notes on why manuscripts are accepted or rejected. One to watch, and a great source of info. (D-16r)

★★★★★

HAPA #4 ($2 from Joe Singer, PO Box 135, Harrison, ID 83833-0135): The Helpful Amateur Publishers' Association, an apa for those of us interested to write about the problems and solutions of the small press. Topics have included taxes, production, bookkeeping, promotion, maintaining mailing lists, and more, with about a dozen small publishers currently involved. (S-23)

★★★★★

THE HAPPY THRASHER #5-6 ($1 from Tin-Ear, 2308 N. Sacramento, Orange, CA 92667): A punk zine that gets into reprinting a bit of everything: living Elvis, animal rights, stopping skinhead violence, and more. They also seem to have a finger on the pulse of the LA club scene (and it seems to be sick). About half the zine is interviews, including Final Conflict and Nuclear Assault in #5, and Beowulf and VoiVod in #6. They do a good job with pretty low-tech equipment. (S-20r)

★★★★★

HARVEST Samhain 1988-Yule 1988 ($11/8 issues from PO Box 228, South Framingham, MA 01701): A networking pagan zine that covers a lot of ground. the Samhain issue includes results from their reader survey, a do-it-yourself cape pattern, and notes on kids & Tarot. Yule features paganized carols, lots of letters and networking, and a certain amount of chaos due to moving the editorial offices. (S-32)

★★★★★

THE HAUNTED JOURNAL #2 ($5.90 from Baker Street Publications, PO Box 994, Metairie, LA 70004): A relatively new entry in the horror fiction field. Only about half of this monster is shuddery stories; there are also lots of reviews, an article on "Who's a Witch" from Sicilian witch Leo Martello, some poetry, and an article on the career of Elvira. Contributors include Bill Rasmussen, Wayne Allen Sallee, and lots more. (D-138r)

★★★★★

HEADCHEESE Vol. 1 #5 ($10/yr from PO Box 10239, Portland, ME 04104): A community newspaper for all of Maine that's trying a lot of things and seems to be having fun. In #5: The failure of CATV public access; rhyming classifieds; reviews of all manner of media (well, except fanzines); short fiction including "The Locke Mills Monster"; comics; and more. all printed on good heavy white stock for that upscale look, and with a nice artistic design. (T-32t)

★★★★★

HEALTH EXAMINER: GOLD COAST EDITION Dec. 1988 ($12/yr from PO Box 4272, Saticoy Stn., Ventura, CA 93004): A new one for the health-conscious person. Most of this issue focuses on Jon Jon Park, who is a "personal physical trainer": someone who will put together a diet and exercise program for individual clients, a profession which I'll bet is more common in California than around here. There's also a run-down on the risks of anabolic steroids. (S-8t)

★★★★★

HEARTSONG REVIEW #5 ($4 from PO Box 1084, Cottage Grove, OR 97424): The best place to go to learn about "New Age Music of the Spirit", as they put it. This means dozens of reviews of New Age music (as well as videos and a few books), sensibly arranged and coded, together with feature articles. #5 focuses on "Peace Through Music", and includes notes on the World Peace Concerts and an interview with Jim Scott. (S-55t)

★★★★★

HELL TOUPEE #3 ($1.50 from Amok Productions, 237 E. Fifth St. #3, New York, NY 10003): With interviews with Big Stick and Happy Flowers and a two page spread of Homestead Records reviews, these folks have their musical territory pretty well staked out. But they also get into bizarre underground films: something called "Urge" makes a splash here, as does a review of The Amazing Transplant. It's all wrapped up in a package filled with excess sexuality and a nasty attitude towards the world in general. (S-28t)

★★★★★

HE'S UGLY AND HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS #1-3 (50¢ from John Bergin, 4503 Washington St., Kansas City, MO 64111): It's dangerous to presume too much about obscure comics, but #1 of this title seems to be in the anti-nuclear war camp. The title character, a skinny dude with no name, is surrounded by destruction, and takes a morbid pleasure in it. Bergin's haywire art goes well with the topic. #3 presents a guy who can't handle the pressure of being religious at college. Fascinating sketches of strange personalities. (M-16)

★★★★★

HEY BULLDOG #8 (SASE from Rodney Griffith, PO Box 523, Columbia Station, OH 44028-0523): A single page of whatever Rodney feels like saying. In #8 it's the Envie Awards, which he just created for minicomic excellence. (S-2t)

★★★★★

HEY DADDYO #9 ($1 from PO Box 587, Willoughby, OH 44094): A collection of bizarre stories from a land where life is not sweet. Dean Tetreault and Mike Hudson put forth credible entries, but the prize of grossness this time goes to Christopher Long for "A Christmas Tree is Not a Toy", in which an entire family gets seriously burned. There are also crusty poems and a few bits of art in here. (S-10)

★★★★★

HIGH SCHOOL IS A WASTELAND #9 ($1 (?) from Glen Hirabayashi, 9325 Garrison Way, Eden Prairie, MN 55347): Mostly hardcore music punctuated by Glen's short essays on things like anarchy, getting wasted, and girls who hang out at the malls. In this issue he talks to Libido Boyz and reviews a small batch of fanzines. (S-18)

★★★★★

HIMALAYAN INSTITUTE QUARTERLY Winter 1989 (On request from RR1, Box 400, honesdale, PA 18431): News from this Institute of Yoga in the Poconos. Though most of it focuses on course offerings and mail order, they do get in some of Sri Swami Rama's teachings each issue. In the winter issue he discusses marriage. (S-48t)

★★★★★

HIPPO #1 ($2.50 from Chautauqua Press, 28834 Boniface Dr., Malibu, CA 90265): A new forum for poettic writing, whether it be in the form of verse or prose. What this results in is stories that take harrowing plot twists for no apparent reason, the bottom falling out of cars, giant phalluses installed in churches, old ladies maundering in Tel Aviv. The poetry is almost simple in contrast, with Timothy Donnelly speaking for a whole page abotu Silly Putty. (D-42)

★★★★★

HIPPYCORE #5 (50¢ & 3 stamps from PO Box 195, Mesa, AZ 85211): Don't let the title fool you: this is punk music, not psychedelia — though they're into social consciousness & peace & love & stuff like that. There's a lot here, mostly interviews (Crimpshrine, Half Odd, Hunger Artist and more) and articles (civil disobedience, love, spontaneous order and so on). Also zine reviews and a lengthy letters page. (S-52r)

★★★★★

HI-TECH TERROR #38-39 ($6/12 issues from Craig Ledbetter, PO Box 5367, Kingwood, TX 77325): The lightweight of the horror movie zines. Craig runs nothing but reviews, from a variety of folks involved in horror fandom. He manages to cram into #38 such gems as Demon Hunter, Fascination, and Don't Mess with My Sister. In #39 he announces plans to focus more on foreign SF and horror films in the future. (D-7r)

★★★★★

HOBO STEW REVIEW #18 ($2 from 236 Kelton St. #14, Allston, MA 02134): An unassuming little literary zine. The Hobo seems to incline towards writing that suggests rather than states, even in the pre-election political commentary that graces this issue. Thoughts and images swarm in and out of consciousness here, touching down in unlikely juxtapositions. (S-15)

★★★★★

HOCUS POCUS ($3 from Out-of-Kontrol Data Korporation, PO Box 953, Allston, MA 02134): A magazine of collage from Jesse Merrick, a new name on the scene. He does pretty good work, rife with people decomposing into various unlikely images courtesy of the mass media. Though there are some words in most of these compositions, they serve mainly to set a tone rather than impose a meaning. Includes color photocopy covers which are especially striking. (S-14)

★★★★★

HOME POWER #7-8 (On Request from PO Box 130, Hornbrook, CA 96044-0130): A success story for renewable energy enthusiasts. These folks practice what they preach — for under $7000, they've managed to be independent of electrical utilities for ten years, despite running radios, computers, appliances and other goodies. PV power is the focus of #7, but other energy sources are not ignored. Ads and letters provide plenty of leads. #8 has a hefty article on hybrid-electric vehicles and lots of product reviews. (S-48t)

★★★★★

HOMOCORE #2 ($1 from Tom Jennings, PO Box 77731, San Francisco, CA 94107): A zine of music and homosexuality — but you don't have to be gay to read it, only someone who cares about the scene and sexuality. Tom is trying to turn people on to neat things to read and listen to, to present opinions often suppressed (even in the gay press) and to have a good time. Looks like he's succeeding. (D-32t)

★★★★★

HOMO SAPIENS #3 (L 30,000/yr from C.P. 705, 70121 Bari, ITALY): All-Italian zine of left-oriented anarchy. Judging by the density of writing they seem to be pretty theory-oriented. Topics in #3 include Palestine, religionand Daniel Guerin. There's a fair dose of cartoons and, in a move that should be emulated by more small zines, a feedback card for the editors to fine-tune the next issue. (S-60t)

★★★★★

HOODOO ($3.50 from Mary Fleener, 309 Oceanview, Encinitas, CA 92024): A full-sized comic (with a striking color cover and b&w interiors)based on the research into Hoodoo by American anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston back in the 1920s. Mary has taken these eerie tales and rituals and crossed them with her own geometric-psychedelic style to create a wild and wooly cosmos indeed. Very striking art and a curious subject. All copies shipped with protective backing and bag. (S-24)

★★★★★

HORIZONS UNLIMITED #34 (50¢ (?) from Nancy Spriggs, 7395 Hillside Turn, Mt. Airy, MD 21771): This one is still edited by the elusive Tisch, but Nancy has taken over publication chores. It tends to be light-weight humor plus cartoons. In this issue, there's another review of *Toon*, a complaint about not enough cheerleader coverage on pro football on TV, and Thor having a problem with Loki. (S-6)

★★★★★

HOUSEWIFE-WRITER'S FORUM Vol. 1 #5-6 ($3 from PO Box 1518, Lafayette, CA 94549): A market and companion for the homemaker (female or male) who is also a writer. The basic idea is to encourage people towards selling to the more major women's markets. HWF features lots of letters from subscribers, poetry, prose (the humor is especially nice), and market listings. Deborah Haeseler has obviously worked hard at getting this going and it looks like a good bet to succeed. (HL-28t)

★★★★★

THE HUDSON VALLEY GREEN TIMES Holidays 1988 ($15/yr from PO Box 208, Red Hook, NY 12571): The focus of this one continues to be solid waste — that is, garbage. There's a lot of it in this valley, and though pilot recycling programs are springing up, the threat of incinerators remains. They also cover other local ecological issues and provide ideas for action. (T-16t)

★★★★★

GE(OF) HUTH

...runs dbqp, a press that produces strange and wonderful offerings where form is as important as content and surely more so than function. Words are the focus here, words that mutate in strange ways and take on a life of their own, nurtured by Ge(of)'s tender care. Here's the latest crop, all available from 225 State St. #451, Schenectady, NY 12305:

•**ALABAMA DOGSHOE MOUSTACHE** No. thr33 (65¢): 8 little poemlets on individual slips of paper held together by one of those brass thingies and some colored thread. John Bennett is as distressing as usual, even with only five lines; Jake Berry turns in a work I can almost understand, perhaps because the dissonance is more tolerable in smaller amounts.

•**THE SUBTLE JOURNAL OF RAW COINAGE** #14 (25¢): SJRC is a journal of words, or rather, neologisms, found or invented by the editor and his friends. This issue is subtitled "percipient", and is a little scroll of paper listing twenty other neword terms for the person at the other end of a work from its creator.

•**THE SUBTLE JOURNAL OF RAW COINAGE** #15 (25¢): This one is hand-lettered within covers of what appears to be wallpaper. Inside are four words from four artists, without any explanation.

•**THE SUBTLE JOURNAL OF RAW COINAGE** #16 ($2): A ziploc plastic bag filled with slips of paper and a single lone (loan?) penny. Eleven "self-defining" words live in this baggie. For example, "offsundering" is presented on a sheet of paper torn between the second f and the s; "poeMvelope" appears on a glassine envelope containing a one-word poem. Not all work this well, but the overall effect is quite different.

•**A VOICE WITHOUT SIDES** #2 ($2): A collection of works in a variety of underutilized media. John Bennett contributes a poem on a label, while editor Huth uses a wax seal to get his own point across. These and several other contributions are contained in a fabric bag for eternal storage.

★★★★★

IAN #6 ($2 from PO Box 5, Columbus, IN 47202): All the heavy metal music you can handle at once and then some. Besides interviews with heavy-duty folks like Testament, Death Angel, and Psycho, they make a real effort to publicize more underground (or lesser known) bands like F.U.C.T., Demolition Hammer, and Acridity. Plenty of interviews and photos, backed up by album reviews and a selection of metal zine reviews. (S-32r)

★★★★★

ICE RIVER Vol. 4.4 ($1 from 953 N. Gale, Union, OR 97883): This is the intermediary review issue between literary collections of the same name. They do print some short prose and poetry (Thomas Wiloch's curious "A Week of Miniatures" turns life into performance art this time round) but the focus is on other zines and stuff. Reviewers include Michael Chocholak for the music and fanzines and Rane Arroyo for some poetry chaps. (T-8t)

★★★★★

I COVER THE WAR Nov.-Dec. 1988 ($1 from PO Box 360553, Birmingham, AL 35236): You might call this an entertainment zine, though you'd have to define the term pretty broadly. Looks at what's coming on the tube and in the nightclubs are a regular feature. The irregular ones are more intriguing: a history of B'ham's hamburger wars and a talk with some Elvis impersonators in the November issue, for example. (S-32t)

★★★★★

IGNORANCE IS NO EXCUSE! #2 ($1 from Dan Werle, 3610 Deep Haven Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80920): Interviews with the Creeps, Underdog, and All are scattered amongst reviews of music, both live and recorded. Dan is straightedge himself, but he's tolerant of other scenes, and seems ot be doing a good job of listening to lots of music. Short reviews in a reasonably attractive format. (D-24r)

★★★★★

ILLITERATE DIGEST #2 (50¢ from Amerigo, 623 Culbertson Dr., Oklahoma City, OK 73105): This little critter hasn't found it's own voice yet, but it's on the way to being an entertaining mix. There's some politics, some music, and some poetry, but no focus. All is off to the left somewhere, in the rebellious youth culture. Comes complete with its own Ouija Board. (HL-16)

★★★★★

IMAGINE #1 ($20/4 issues ($30 air mailed) from PO Box 151, Lawson, 2783 Blue Mountains, AUSTRALIA): An alternative roundup from the folks who used to bring you **MAGGIE'S FARM**. It's a wild mix of intelligence-enhancing chemicals, ecological movements, alternate politics, Robert Anton Wilson on the Priory of Sion, impossible energy machines (excuse me, "suppressed"), and outright kooks. Plenty of information with very little filtering. There's a nice history of **MF** and other alternative publishing projects in #1. (S-48t)

★★★★★

I'M GOING TO KILL EVERYBODY #2 ($1 (?) from 607 E. Dayton, Madison, WI 53703): Put together from various advertising images, this little collection of collage gets across a basic message about suicide: if you're going to go you might as well take a bunch of other people with you. A rather disturbing rearrangement of newspaper reality. (S-12)

★★★★★

I'M NOT BORING YOU, AM I? #3 ($1 from Robert Runte, PO Box 4655, PSSE, Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 5G5, CANADA): This is Robert's apazine from FAPA, the oldest continuing science fiction apa in existence. Since he's working on a sociology degree, it consists mainly of sociological observations of places he's been lately: weddings, graduate departments, rural Alberta, sleazy bars full of hookers. Pretty interesting stuff, and a good eye for description. (S-19)

★★★★★

INCITE! #12 (Free from Tim Alborn, PO Box 649, Cambridge, MA 02238): Tim is still centering this zine around music, though he seems to have a political agenda as well, evident in the dedication to Angela Hywood and the consideration of the importance of writing females in kids' books. High Risk Group, Girl Trouble and record reviews round out the usual complement of features. (D-16t)

★★★★★

IN CONTEXT #19 ($4.50 from PO Box 11470, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110): "A Quarterly of Humane Sustainable Culture", this one seems to be doing a good job of capturing the main currents of thought that just might save our asses in the next few decades. The articles here are mostly from big names in the various alternative movements: Francis Moore Lappe, Amory Lovins, Robert Theobald, and Jean Houston among them. Energy efficiency, recycling, and transnationalism are a few pieces of their solutions. (S-64t)

★★★★★

INDOCHINA ISSUES #83 ($20/yr from 226 Massachusetts Ave. NE #510, Washington, DC 20002): A research and education publication funded by The Fund for Peace, and apparently devoted to all of Indochina. This issue concentrates on "Amerasians" — sons of US servicemen and

Vietnamese mothers — in Viet Nam, and the tangled international relations involved in their moving to the US. (S-8t)

★★★★★

INDUSTRIAL WORKER Vol. 85 #10-11 (50¢ from 3435 N. Sheffield #202, Chicago, IL 60657): The Industrial Workers of the World are still out there and organizing, though these days they're more llikely to unionize a Greenpeace office than a steel mill. Still, there's some interesting news here, including a report from aconference of co-operative printers. Also bits of movement history keep popping up among the exhortations to "Don't mourn — unionize!" (T-12t)

★★★★★

IN EFFECT #2 ($1.50 from Chris Wynne, 119-16 8th Ave., College Point, NY 11356): A zine that focuses mainly on hardcore music from the New York City area, centered around reviews and lots of photos (making this pretty good looking for only #2). Features here include chats with Abomb Anation, Sick of It All, and Uppercut. Also has live show and vinly reporage and a special in-depth look at one band's demo. (S-20)

★★★★★

INK DISEASE #14 ($2 from 4563 Marmion Way, Los Angeles, CA 90065): A music zine that has definitely reached the journeyman level of quiet confidence without being overly flashy. The main focus is on interviews, with the Angry Samoans, Dickies, Naked Raygun and Savage Republic representative of the groups talked to in #14. Record and tape reviews round out the zine, along with a full page Baboon Dooley. (S-82t)

★★★★★

INNER LIGHT #13 ($1 from PO Box 753, New Brunswick, NJ 08903): The few articles here are about seers, psychics, and folks like Jose Arguelles, who is still talking about the Harmonic Convergence. But most of this publication is ads for New Age suckers, who can buy all manner of books and talismans if they want. (S-32t)

★★★★★

INNER VOICE #9 ($3 from Jean Danielson, 701 Pheasant Trail, McHenry, IL 60050): Jean channels William, her "Inner Voice" which behaves as a very wise entity of its own. William transmits a message of hope and transcending human limits by understanding our own Wills. In #9 Jean talks about her experiments with making sleep a chosen rather than required activity, and presents some more of her conversations with William. (D-16r)

★★★★★

IN PITTSBURGH Vol. 5 #4 ($16/6 months from PO Box 4286, Pittsburgh, PA 15203): An investigative and enteratinment tabloid from the Steel City. #4 includes short stories on the state of progressive labor today, and a long screed on recyclable plastic bags, as well as feisty letters tearing into previous stories. Of course, there's plenty of local calendar and ad stuff too. (T-28t)

★★★★★

INSIDE JOKE #64-65 ($1.50 from Elayne Wechsler, PO Box 1609, Madison Sq. Stn., New York, NY 10159): Sort of the laid-back cousin of the college literary journals; people here are writing for fun, rather than fame or credit. The emphasis is on popular culture (TV, comics, animation, music) and humor, with Anni Ackner and Ho Chi Zen always chiming in. In #64, Larry Stolte presents another bit of unofficial history of the Reagan years, skillfully capturing some of the most absurd myths of our times. (S-32r)

★★★★★

THE INSIDER GUN NEWS Vol. 2 #11-Vol. 3 #1 ($50/12 issues from The Gunpress Publishing Company, PO Box 3257, Alexandria, VA 22302): All the news you may have wanted to know from inside the gun industry, as well as groups both pro- and anti-. The NRA has been coming in for a lot of criticism from editor John Aquilino, who sees them as being gutted by self-serving administrators. #1 goes into detail on the fierce marketing wars over the 9mm law-enforcement weapons in this country. (S-4)

★★★★★

THE INSOMNIAC #15 ($10/yr from Lynne Parcells, 1310 Sussex St., Portage, MI 49081): A journal largely written by Mensans, but not an official Mensa publication. It's about half essays, from Ralph Rudolph's thoughts on achieving in a bureaucratic society to Bailey Hankins transcribed interview with God, which is pretty funny. The other half is letters, many still revolving around hard political infighting in San Diego Mensa a year or more ago. Fascinating and interesting. (HL-60t)

★★★★★

INSTAURATION Vol. 13 #12-Vol. 14 #1 ($25/yr from Howard Allen Enterprises, PO Box 76, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920): A journal for those worried about the decline of Northern European white culture in America. They present themselves with care, and seem quite sincere. Very valuable as a source of news on attacks on free speech and press, in Canada and otherwise, on the grounds of "false news" or "harmful slurs" — an area most First Amendment activists are disgustingly silent about. (S-36t)

★★★★★

INSURRECTION #5 (£1 from Elephant Editions, BM Elephant, London WC 1N 3XX, ENGLAND): A very interesting anarchist journal. There is a definite European flavor to it, with a highly developed theoretical critique of capitalism alongside encouraging news of "actions" against capital — ideas notably absent from the North American anarchist journals. Though their language takes some getting used to, they undoubtedly have interesting ideas, and in addition are an excellent source of information on what comrades overseas are up to. (A4-39t)

★★★★★

INTERNAL ARTS BULLETIN Vol. 1 #3 ($2 from 151 1st Ave., New York, NY 10003): A journal for practitioners of Tai Chi Chuan, especially in the New York City area. The articles are pretty lightweight in this issue, although some, like the results of a recent "Wushu Challenge", are probably interesting to those involved in the field. Lots of ads from folks in the City who can teach this stuff to you. (S-16)

★★★★★

INTERNATIONAL ADVERTISER #22-23 ($3 *Cash/IMO* from J. Poms, PO Box 272, A-1090 Vienna, AUSTRIA): A collection of small ads, offers, and scams from around the world. If you believe the folks here, you can be selling Australian handbags, selling ultra-cheap mimeo machines, or cleaning up in business within months. Caveat Emptor, but it is sort of fun to read what people think others will shell out cash for. (A4-16r)

★★★★★

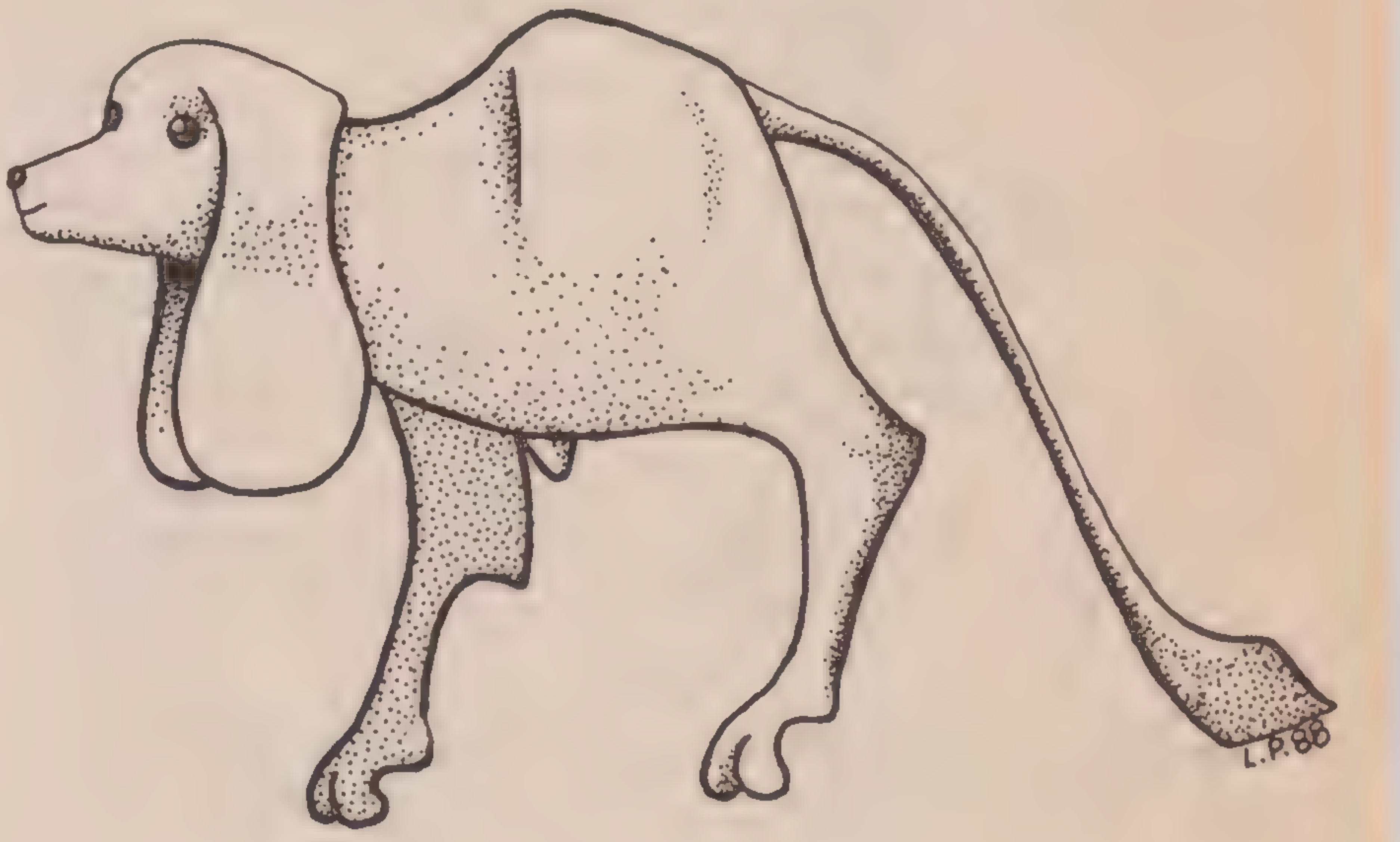
INTERNATIONAL PRIMATE PROTECTION LEAGUE NEWSLETTER Vol. 15 #3 ($20/yr from PO Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484): The IPPL is active in trying to preserve the lives of primates on several levels, from political pressure to ban imports to running a gibbon sanctuary. Much of this is documentation of abuses around the country and the world, though there are hopeful stories as well. Concerned and committed people. (S-24t)

★★★★★

IN THE MAIL Nov. 1988 ($10/12 issues from PO Box 79114, Lakewood, OH 44107): A mail art zine that goes in for theme issues. November appears to be devoted to prehistoric life, and while the current fascination with dinosaurs provides ample material for some of these photocopy, drawing, and collage artists, others take a more innovative approach. Loni Anderson, for example, does seem to belong here. Comes with addresses for a whole mess of contributing artists. (D-60)

★★★★★

INVERTED A-HORN #3-4 ($1 (?) from 401 Forrest Hill, Grand Prairie, TX 75051): A curious mix. Each issue starts out with a mildly conservative editorial, and then dives into poetry. The latter is in a very classical mode, with lots of tight structure and uplifting thoughts and deep morals. Finally, they speak of the books they've put out, ranging from poetry collections to a book of Blake's Seven filks. (S-5r)



★★★★★

IRON FEATHER'S JOURNAL #7 ($1 from Steven Prothero, PO Box 74, Bedford, NH 03102-0074): A zine for the person who is thinking of seriously screwing around with the system: phreaks, hackers and just plain troublemakers. #7 includes ideas on how to shoplift, instructions for scamming credit cards, and some spectacular noisy bomb recipes. There's also lots of stuff on BBS's to call and a bit on computer viruses. (D-28r)

★★★★★

THE IRREGULAR Vol.. 1 #1 ($1 (?) from Harper, 205 Park Ave. #3, Council Bluffs, IA 51503): A collection of essays and short stories without much in the way of unification except for a love of large words and amateur philosophizing. There may be gems here but I can't find them, largely because the all-caps computer printing is so irregular in itself as to make reading this an unpleasant chore. (S-17)

★★★★★

IT'S Dec. 1988 ($2 *[no new trades]* from Sheila Gibson, 20 Shady Ln., Nashua, NH 03062): A zine for lovers of Monty Python anre related strange things. This issue includes some inside dope on the flap over releasing "Brazil", a color photocopy cover, bibliographies of recent articles on things Pythonesque, and the usual madness of comics, trivia and whatnot. Sheila notes that if you missed the Fish Called Wanda interview & still want it, you can get it free with your copy of #8. (S-28)

★★★★★

IT'S ONLY A MOVIE Vol. III #10- 11-B ($1.25 from Michael Flores, PO Box 14683, Chicago, IL 60614-0683): This is the organ of the Psychotronic Film Society, for those who wallow in lowbrow culture. Every issue covers things like B movies, old comics, propaganda films, and much more. #10 includes Dale Sherman's discussion of rock videos banned by MTV and where to find some of them. #11 has a guide to the best kung fu movies of all time, if you can imagine such a thing. #11-B reports a visit to the real Frankenstein castle. (D-20)

★★★★★

JACK ANDERSON CONFIDENTIAL Aug.-Oct. 1988 ($89/yr from Target Inc., PO Box 25, Pleasanton, CA, 94566): All the stuff that doesn't fit in Jack Anderson's newspaper columns, I guess. He seems pretty paranoid these days, apparently worried that the white upper-class lifestyle is vanishing. Lots of warnings about terrorists, drugs, industrial competitiveness, mortgages, and other timely topics, together with glamourous "diary" excerpts about hobnobbing with the looselipped and important. (S-8)

★★★★★

JACK ON FIRE #3 ($1 from Gene Temesy, 439 Rivercrest Dr., Piscataway, NJ 08854): A quarterly newsletter for fans of the band The Gun Club. Lots of photos of band members & others who have had anything to do with them frame gossip from their latest tour and a couple of interviews. The longest one in this issue is with Chris Stein. Subscribers can get discounts on t-shirts and records too. (S-6r)

★★★★★

JAG Vol. 27 #1-2 (On Request from R.S. Jaggard, 10 E. Charles, Oelwein, IA 50662): This is a free enterprise broadside from a practicing physician who, putting his livelihood in line with his principles, refuses to accept government money in his practice. Instead, he develops private relationships with his patients and treats them as people rather than cash cows. #1 explains the theory behind this and gives the addresses from some associations of independent physicians. #2 takes as its theme "Caring". (L-1)

★★★★★

THE JAMES WHITE REVIEW Vol. 6 #1-2 ($3 from PO Box 3356, Traffic Stn., Minneapolis, MN 55403): A quality literary quarterly by (and mostly for) gay men. They incline towards non-graphic stories of friendship and coping in the world, together with some fast-paced poetry. But anything can happen: #1 includes a play and some thoughts on the mysterious "Mr. W.H." of Shakespeare's sonnets. #2 has a special extended section of book and small-press poetry reviews. (T-16t)

★★★★★

J.LEROY'S INGRESS and J.LEROY'S PROGRESS #1 and #2-4 ($1, $1, and $2.50 respectively from PO Box 4843, East Lansing, MI 48826): Autobiographical works from one of the moving minds behind the BVI conspiracy. The first booklet starts off in high school, and the last carries things through to the hilarious story of screwing a particularly obnoxious roomie. Along the way are nitrous oxide, unrequited lust, crazy driving, bad food, nerdiness, making and losing friends, and more. More fascinating than you'd expect a late-teen's life to be. (D-20r,D-20r,D-60r)

★★★★★

JOVRNAL (50¢ from Thale, PO Box 10413, Eugene, OR 97440): A mini of collage on the subject of travel, in a number of senses. The pictures here form a connected story rather than just a series of absurdities, dealing with the pros and cons of venturing into the unknown. Features a machine-sewn binding. (M-16)

★★★★★

JUJU #1 (25¢ & a stamp from One Vast thought, 12 Whitsett St., Greenville, SC 29601): A minicomic by Scott Hammes. It concerns a couple of guys who find a body by the side of the road and get involved in a rather Keystonish chase while trying to be good citizens. The art is sort of marginal, but I chuckled. (M-8)

★★★★★

G.X. JUPITTER-LARSEN

This artist-about town sent several items, which I'm describing here because they don't seem to fit anywhere else. No prices are apparent, but if you're intrigued try sending a few bucks to PO Box 92, Denver, CO 80201

- **A BASIC INTRODUCTION TO THE "T.N.U."**: This describes the invention and use of the Transexpansion Numerical Units, numers which are located off the usual number line in a sort of hyperspace. It's illustrated with diagrams and examples and will drive the mathematically-inclined batty. (HL-8)
- **FINAL**: A one-act play with a pair of characters who seem to drift in and out like a poorly-tuned-in radio station. Together they propound a theory of existence which quantizes our lives into discrete bits of time which can become disordered. Comes with a somewhat-explanatory diagram. (S-12)
- **KETTLEDAY**: A postcard explaining this day, which Jupitter-Larsen invented. It's squeezed into the calendar by slight of hand, but makes an interesting point about our arbitrary ordering of the universe nonetheless. (M-1)
- **THE TOTIMORPHOUS**: This is a first-person philosophical discourse on beng and nothingness and what comes in between — I think. The individual senteces seem to make sense but taken together the whole becomes a mass of maddening contradictions. (D-8t)

★★★★★

THE KALAMAZOO SHOCKER Vol. 2 #4 (SASE or a stamp from 227 Andy Ave., Portage, MI 49081): A meandering zine of local observation. This ranges from lurid suggestions about what the local teens have been about to commentary on the alumni relations of Western Michigan University. There are road trip stories and music reviews and in general just whatever the editor felt like writing about. (S-8r)

★★★★★

KALLISTI Vol. 2 #3 ($9/6 issues from PO Box 19566, Cincinnati, OH 45219): A journal of Discordian thought and madness. They rove all over the map, from fashion to realistic fiction to magick to nuclear power vs. the greenhouse effect. Lots of hidden esoterica here as well as some truly wedged views of the world and not a little fun. (D-42t)

★★★★★

THE KANSAS INTELLIGENCER Vol. 2 #11-Vol. 3 #1 ($12/12 issues from R.W. Clack, 5524 Anderson Ave., Manhattan, KS 66502): This "monthly polemic" manages to get across conservative views in a witty yet understated way. #12 looks at everything from the activities of the local beavers to sensationalistic anti-nuke reporting in NEWSWEEK. #1 tackles the problem of the proper response to terrorism, advocating a hard line while refusing to stoop to the terrorists' level. (L-2)

★★★★★

KARKUS RATUS #2 ($1 from Karl Schmitz, RD4, Box 217, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569): Slapstick comics that dredge up an awful lot of old jokes but still manage to be funny. This issue concentrates mainly on the inventor and the dinosaur, though the clown who the zine is named after is lurking in the wings, looking for a pencil to fill out a pencil requisition form with. (S-12)

★★★★★

KARNO'S KLASSICS #23-24 ($1.25 & Age Statement from Kjartan Arnorsson, 1387 Commonwealth Ave., Allston, MA 92134): Sexually-explicit funny-animal comics that are as hot as they are anatomically imporbable. #23 features superhero Savage Squirrel saving the damsel in distress and getting a nice rubdown for his trouble. #24 is the "All-Mink" issue, featuring one of Kjartan's more stacked female creations. (D-16)

★★★★★

KICK IT OVER #22 ($2 from PO Box 5811, Stn. A, Toronto, ONT M5W 1P2, CANADA): A meeting place for anarchist, ecological, and feminist thought. They don't have all the answers, but are certainly exploring the problems in depth. In this issue: Janet Biehl on the dangers of promiscuous Goddess-worship; a report on the Toronto anarchist gathering; news of struggle from Guatemala and Honduras; more on deep vs. social ecology; and lots else. Well-produced and laid out to boot. (T-24t)

★★★★★

KOEKRAND 83 (f3,75 from Postbus 14767, 1001 LG Amsterdam, HOLLAND): How much that is in dollars I don't know, but this is a pretty spiffy zine, typeset on high-clay paper, so be generous or send an inquiry note first. The focus seems to be on music and social change, though with the writing exclusively in Dutch it's a bit hard to tell. Record, tape and zine reviews, interviews with Demolition 4, Scream Therapy, and more. Gruesome 2-color Gaither cover. (O-40t)

"I am Not!"
I said...
MB

★★★★★

KOOL THANGS #4 ($1 from 1916 Madison Ave., Memphis, TN 38104): A weird collection of writing. #4 features handy hints on where to get laid in Memphis, a review of the Kiss boardgame, and notes on recent live shows in town. There's also a complaint about the lack of Halloween vandalism locally and reviews of ramen flavors. (S-12)

★★★★★

KULTCHA #111-112 ($1/5 issues from Packrat Press, PO Box 5498, Atlanta, GA 30307): Strange words from a strange guy, Kerry Thornley (if, that is, you believe this really is from Kerry). #111 is about the Knights Templars and their initiation; #112 contains notes on a few other ranters and a new prank from the mgt. (S-1)

★★★★★

KURLUK Nov. 1988-Jan. 1989 (SASE from PO Box 6186, Baltimore, MD 21231-6186): A collection of short psychic and magickal columns wrapped around a great many ads. The latter tend to be for things like magic oils and astrological charts, leading to suspicions that the articles are only secondary. There's some hint that this is changing, as the December issue is substantially larger than before with a lot of ecstatic and mythic writing. In any case, Tarot is one of the main themes here. (HL-28)

★★★★★

LABYRINTH Dec. 1988 ($15/yr from 815 S. 48th St., Philadelphia, PA 19143): A monthly women's newspaper that takes a broad view of feminism, allowing in all viewpoints that aren't racist, sexist, or homophobic. This time around there are notes on women and AIDS, an investigation of legal protection against domestic violence, and a look at recent film portrayals of motherhood. (T-16t)

★★★★★

LA LANGOUSTE #19 (8 Francs from Model-Peltex, 3 Rue des Couples, 67000 Strasbourg, FRANCE): A zine of fanzine and other reviews which has grown to a fairly impressive size. Mail art and graphics zines are their main focus, but a lot else gets mentioned as well. There's also video and music reviews, a column of music information and nice pics of many of the zines listed. (A4-16r)

★★★★★

THE LAME MONKEY MANIFESTO Vol. 2 #12-13 ($1 from PO Box 8763, Knoxville, TN 37996-4800): It's not easy running an underground or alternative college newspaper these days, but these folks are hanging on somehow. #2 includes further debate over the possibility of anarchy and a handy list of local groups from the Monroe Maternity Center to The Church of the SubGenius. #13 has a stirring defense of anarchy, answering a not-very-informed article from a few issues before. (T-8t)

★★★★★

LAND OF A THOUSAND BANDS #4 (SASE from Ellen Levitt, 1121 E. 22nd St., Brooklyn, NY 11210): A quick dip into the land of independent music, this time via reviews of recorded work. Ellen talks about releases from Collins & Poss, Jeremy Morris, Michelle Shocked, REM and others in this single-pager. (S-1r)

★★★★★

LAN'S LANTERN #26 ($3 from George Laskowski, 55 Valley Way, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013): A SF fanzine whose immediate salient quality is that of *hugeness*. The firs tthing you notice is that this is a heavy zine; the second is that very little of it seems like padding, though some sections, such as the book reviews, are overwhelming. Lan provides articles on subjects serious and fannish, an account of his life since the last issue, and the other traditional ingredients of the fannish stew. (S-124r)

★★★★★

L.A. ROCK REVIEW Vol. 1 #41 ($1 (?) from 1343 4th St., Santa Monica, CA 90401): Looks like maybe free locally. This is another tabloid directed at the LA club scene, with lots of music played by young men with big puffy hair. Fortunately the journalism isn't too big and puffy itself; they provide good club coverage, with future dates and past reviews, as well as band features. L7 get the spotlight in this issue. (T-24t)

★★★★★

THE LAST DAYS Vol. 11 #3-4 ($5/yr from PO Box 40, Lindale, TX 75771-0040): Available for less if you can't afford more, this is a moderatelty hip Christian outreach digest. Operation Rescue, the lessons of temptation, and the terrible consequences of voting for liberals are featured in #3. If reading isn't enough, check out their "Intensive Christian Training School". (D-32t)

★★★★★

THE LAST TRUMPET ($1 (?) from Alex Santos, 2 Steeles Ave. W., Box 125, Thornhill, ONT L4J 1A1, CANADA): Alex has a message from the space people watching our planet ("A person can usually spot a U.F.O. if he or she tries."). The message is basically to get ready for the end times, because they're coming soon, to be ushered in by some unspecified "event of great importance". He seems sincere, but admits that he sounds like a kook. (S-3)

★★★★★

LATE KNOCKING Vol. IV #1 ($5 from Vonnie Crist, PO Box 336, Forest Hill, MD 21050): A special issue dedicated to Edgar Allen Poe, this is a nice-feeling perfect-bound litmag. As one would expect, there is much of the morbid and the macabre here, in poetry and prose, as well as tributes to the author. The hardest punch here is packed by Lawrence Watt-Evans' story "Dead Things Don't Move", but there are plenty of other gruesomely effective pieces. (D-109t)

★★★★★

LCD Fall 1988 ($1 from WFMU, Upsala College, East Orange, NJ 07019): Program guide from a long-running freeform station that still seems to be full of energy. Besides stuff on their own radio station, they feature smallscale radio news from around the world, bizarre art and humor, and random letters from the gutter. Inspiring stuff. (S-40t)

★★★★★

THE LEDGE #5-6 (75¢ from Cindy Laufenberg, 321 Cokes Dr., Toms River, NJ 08753): A pfanzine that concentrates on music from the Midwest — and things they like, which is refreshing. Coverage in #5 includes Soul Asylum and Velvet Elvis plus a batch of record reviews. #6 has X-Men, Young Fresh Fellows, Medicine Sunday, and a few concert and fanzine reviews as well. (S-16)

★★★★★

LEFT BUSINESS OBSERVER #23-24 ($2 from 250 W. 85th St., New York, NY 10024-3217): A progressive look at business and finance in this country. #23 includes post-election analysis and a look at the current binge of buyouts. The latter article has some really shocking statistics on the size of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts. #24 looks at third-world debt from a couple of angles. LBO is also a good source of readable explanations of the Federal Reserve. (S-8t)

★★★★★

LIBERTARIAN FAMILIST Vol. 7 #6-Vol. 8 #2 (On request from 5205 Fairbanks #4, El Paso, TX 79924): A libertarian magazine that gets most aghast when the government begins invading the precincts on the family. In #6 they go over the Billy Mick case, involving anarchist parents who have had their baby forcibly removed by the state. (S-4t)

★★★★★

LIBERTARIAN LABOR REVIEW #6 ($2.50 from PO Box 2824, Station A, Champaign, IL 61820): The best anarcho-syndicalist journal being published in the country today. There are others in the field, but none with such a wide scope of international news from the grassroots labor movement. This issue is mainly focused on considering the connections between anarcho-syndicalism and the environmental movement, in the context of another critique of Earth First! But there's lots more than that, with everything from Bakunin to a basic Q&A on their principles to Brazilian revolutionary unionism. (S-45t)

★★★★★

THE LIBERTARIAN REPUBLICAN Vol. II #2 $20/yr from LROC, 444 Castro St. #301, Mountain View, CA 94041): The Libertarian Republican Organizing Committee is a group that has abandoned the idea of building a viable third party to bore from within one of the major two. From the last election it seems obvious that the former strategy is indeed failing, but I'm rather skeptical of their ability to turn the GOP around to some idea of personal freedom instead of just freedom for the well off. (S-16t)

★★★★★

LIFE AND FAMILY NEWS Vol. VIII #2 ($10/yr from Pro-Life Action League, 6160 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago, IL 60646): Despite the title, this one is solely devoted to anti-abortion activism. If you can stand to read it, it will give you the insider view of Operation Rescue and similar actions. Their editorial attitude is summed up for me by the caption of one photograph: "Sodomites, lesbians, and other leftists angrily shout at the rescuers during the first day of Operation Rescue in New York City." (T-20t)

★★★★★

LIFE COMICS & STORIES #2 (50¢ & a stamp from Victor Gates, 552 Lancelot Dr., North salt Lake, UT 84054): A new minicomic devoted to retelling real-life incidents in either words or pictures. #2 includes Victor's account of his therapy in college and a hilarious Liam Brooks strip on why you should not make french fries for two-year-olds. (M-20)

★★★★★

LIFE IS FREE Vol. 0 #0 (Send a stamp to Wooden Shoe Books, 112 S. 20th St., Philadelphia, PA 19103): A newspaper from and for anarchist squatters. I fear they're likely to condemn me as part of the problem if I say anything about the effect of their actions on everyone else, so let me instead suggest that if you're interested in squatting, this is one good place to get advice. Their steps to locating and equipping a place are pretty well done. (T-8t)

★★★★★

LIFE ON PLANET EARTH Vol. II #4-5 (SASE from Embassy of Planet Claire, PO Box 3194, Bellingham, WA 98227): A rambling selection of humor and speculation. Sometimes it goes a bit beyond the bounds of good taste, as with the "homo hunting" piece in #4, which I certainly *hope* was intended as a joke. This issue also features speculations on intelligent plants and another silly Fat Mike comic. #5 announces the Society for the Prevention of Harm to Heavy Machinery. (S-4t)

★★★★★

LIFEQUEST #4 ($2 from Imladris Corporation, PO Box 18690, South Lake Tahoe, CA 95706): "A fiction publication with a positive view of the future", this is written by (and perhaps mostly for) cryonicists seeking to explore their commitment to eternal life. The stories here are, on one level, technologically quite speculative; on another, an attempt to grapple with the possible emotions resulting from an open-ended voyage into the future, and the scary thrill of being pioneers. (HL-53)

★★★★★

LIGHT TIMES ($2 *Cash or Stamps ONLY* from PO Box 84366, Los Angeles, CA 90073): "A Random Periodical", inspired by the Discordian movement and affiliated madnesses. This issue ranges widely over modern mythology, drug trips, mystical experiences, and the madness of everyday life. It's not always exactly coherent, but there's so much stuff here that it doesn't have to be. (D-36r)

★★★★★

THE LIL' RHINO GAZETTE #12 ($2 from PO Box 14139, Arlington, TX 76094-1139): This time around the Rhino seems to be mostly into music, and there's a lot less breadth in the zine than previously. But that's OK, because there are interviews with folks like Band of Susans and Glass Eye here, and shorts on a whole batch of other bands. A few stories and poems crowd into the last few pages to remind us of the scope of this production. (HL-48r)

★★★★★

LIME #5 (50¢ from Jeff Curtis, PO Box 6643, Cleveland, OH 44101-1643): A special "sickness" issue produced when Jeff and Karen Waldrop were home with the flu. It's got drawings and text structured around various revolting ideas, from rectal thermometers to squashed animals, I guess on the theory that misery loves company. They're quite interested in trading with "zines or comics from foreign countries, or drawings, 'specially self-portraits!" (D-12)

★★★★★

LITERARY MARKETS #43 ($12/yr from PO Drawer 1310, Point Roberts, WA 98281-1310): Just what the name says, a listing of markets for short literary work, poetry and prose. Contests, theme issues, and just normal readings are all listed. About 50 short paragraphs per issue. (S-6)

★★★★★

LITTLE FREE PRESS #67 (FREE from Ernest Mann, 2714 1st Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55408): To get copies you have to agree to make copies and pass them on. This time around Ernest omits the explantion of the Priceless Economic System (just ask & I'm sure he'll send you something on that topic) in favor of a travelogue explaining how he spent the winter living cheaply on the margins of society. (S-8r)

★★★★★

LITTLE SKULL'S BAY-BEE #6 (One Stamp from Carrie, 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): A mini of mainly text, though Carrie throws in a comic or two at the end. Inside you'll find opinions on poseurs (and questions for the next opinion section), coffee reviews, and a guide to becoming a dead but cool rocker. (M-8)

★★★★★

LIVELY ARTS #12 ($1 *cash* from PO Box 4906, San Diego, CA 92104): The third anniversary issue of this music zine, which has a pretty unique feel about it. They're heavy on the photos and socializing with rockstars, but still manage to get in some dynamite interviews. The Damned feature heavily in this issue, as does Betsy (formerly Bitch). There's also comics (including some nifty Mary Fleener entries) and a page on animal rights. (D-44t)

★★★★★

LIVING FREE #46 ($1.25 from Jim Stumm, PO Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): A newsletter for and from those who want to opt out of the system by settling down in a simpler life, either on the land or in a city somewhere. Topics in #46 include a recirculating shower, buying land cheap, and pros and cons on technological dreams of future freedom. Not so much interested in destroying the state as in circumventing it. (S-8r)

★★★★★

LLEWELLYN'S NEW TIMES #886 ($1 from PO Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383): Mainly a guide to the occult and New Age offerings of Llewellyn Publications. They're big on shamanism right now, along with old favorites like astrology, crystals, and Chakras. Lots of intriguing ads in the back. (S-80t)

★★★★★

LOAFING THE DONKEY #20-21 (50¢ from Peter Mantis, 1250 Tutwiler #2, Memphis, TN 38107): A zine of music, movies, and whatnot. #20 includes a history of the fanzine so far (something I'd like to see more of), thoughts on mass media in Detroit, and Superman's 50th anniversary. The range goes from Joan Crawford's works to Nick Zedd's "Police State" in #21. It's all dressed up with a slapdash collage layout. (D-24r)

★★★★★

THE LOG CABIN #97-98 ($1 from Jerry Edwards, PO Box 881, Medical Lake, WA 99022): A small and homey publication for folks either on their way out of the city to the country, or already arrived there — "Back to the Landers". It's MENSA-based, but anyone can subscribe and then join the conversation, for it's all reader-written. A great storehouse of ideas and support for folks aiming for simpler living. (D-16r)

Lively Arts

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#12 is 44 pages of:
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San Diego, CA 92104 USA

★★★★★

LONE STAR SOCIALIST #5/6 ($6/yr from Socialist Party of Texas, PO Box 2640, Austin, TX 78768): The SP of Texas is affiliated with the national Socialist Party, a group which feels we need socialism but doesn't endorse any particular variety. This leaves the possibilities open for a wide dialogue, as exemplified by Prentiss Riddle's article on the Greens in this issue. Naturally, Willa Kenoyer's presidential campaign is also news here. (S-12t)

★★★★★

LONG WAY HOME (Donation from Oyster Publications, 723 N. Highland Ave., Arlington Heights, IL 60004): A small chapbook consisting of a single work by John Porcellino, the man behind **VOLE ADVENTURES**. This is a bit of dream-like text, with undertones of fear and fleeing and illustrated with dark and scary drawings. Perplexing. (D-8t)

★★★★★

LOOKOUT! #34 ($1 from PO Box 1000, Laytonville, CA 95454): With a circulation of 4000, this is becoming a major anarchist/alternative voice in zinedom. Much of this consists of comments on the news, local, regional, and international. The rest is feature articles on things like the Greenhouse Effect, Lawrence Livermore's reflections on life and history, and music and zine news. (S-32t)

★★★★★

LOSING FAITH #7 ($2 from PO Box 10533, Minneapolis, MN 55458): These folks have branched out from disgusting art to disgusting stories with the introduction of their new "Losing Lunch" section, a collection of true vomit stories (you're invited to send your own in for publication). The bulk of the zine, though, is still drawings and collage, much of it with blatant sexual or scatalogical content. "It Ain't Easy Being Sleazy", says the back cover, but they do a good job. (HL-20)

★★★★★

THE LOUIE REPORT #3 (*Available to Contributors ONLY* from PO Box 2430, Santa Clara, CA 95055-2430): A newsletter dedicated solely to the multiply-recorded song "Louie, Louie", being put out as a pre-promo for a film on the song. The producer & director, Eric Predoehl, is eager for all sorts of information and trivia about the song, and will send copies *only* to those who provide such. (S-8t)

★★★★★

LUCID #41 ($1 from Dale Adams, 3041 Stanton Cir., Carmichael, CA 95608): This one comes from the Mensa "Truth SIG", a batch of folks seeking to explore the frontiers of knowledge in areas other than the hard sciences. This issue includes articles on the links between high IQ and madness, the tangled history of Dianetics, Freud, and General Semantics, and the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus. (D-16r)

★★★★★

THE MAGIC OF PALLADIUM BOOKS #1-2 ($5/6 issues from 5926 Lonyo, Detroit, MI 48210): A role-palying game zine devoted to the products of this one ocmpany. Well, they *are* the ones putting it out. Anyhow, there are previews here, as well as rules additions and Q&A on products like Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Robotech, and Beyond the Supernatural. (S-16t)

★★★★★

MAGNET SCHOOL #8 ($5 *CASH*/4 issues from PO Box 10403, Minneapolis, MN 55458-3403): This "sexographic" zine is back after a long hiatus. Inside, editrix Lisa LaBia talks about her trip to England and the state of sexuality there, answers letters from readers who want a refreshing approach to sex, and prints some very curious fiction. (S-14t)

★★★★★

MALLIFE #16 ($4.50 from Bomb Shelter Propaganda, PO Box 12268, Seattle, WA 98102): A premiere zine of experimental art. Just the roster of folks here is amazing: Jake Berry, Willie Smith (more stomach-turning stories), Chris Winkler, Geof Huth, Greg Evason, John Eberly, Crag Hill...and a few dozen others who've been mentioned here in the past. Besides the usual collage, computer art, concrete (and otherwise) poems, stories and reviews, this issue includes half a dozen things glued in. These comprise both original artworks (reproduced in color) and mini-chapbooks from Berry, Polkinhorn, Bennett, and Eberly. A must-have for anyone after the cutting edge of art/literature. (D-56 & inserts)

★★★★★

THE MANDOCRUCIAN'S DIGEST #11 ($10/4 issues from PO Box 2352, Clarksburg, WV 26301): Probably the only tabloid out there aimed directly at mandolin players. There's all sorts of sheet music in here in various styles, an interview with Mark O'Connor, ideas on how to play better in public, fiddle tunes, and lots more. They also review albums of interest, whether for mandolin playing or riffs that might be adaptable. (T-16t)

★★★★★

MARYLAND BIGFOOT NOTEBOOK Update 1988 ($1 (?) from Mark Opsasnick, 114 Rosewood Dr., Greenbelt, MD 20770): A bit of well-organized Forteana. Yes, people have been seeing bigfoot — or *something* strange and humanoid — in Maryland for hundreds of years. Mark has begun the laborious process of tracking down references to these sightings, with the hope of perhaps some day solving the mystery. So far, though, there's no answers, only data to consider. (D-20)

★★★★★

THE MATALIK PORTFOLIO (Free from Peter Warner, PO Box 1028, Canal St. Stn., New York, NY 10013): Emil Matalik camped across the street from the United Nations, trying to convince them of the wisdom of his ideas: the too many people cause droughts, that spanking to orgasm is a good form of birth control, and odder things. Now Warner has a number of posters from this kook available for the asking, together with a tribute to his memory. (L-8)

* * * * *

MAXIMUM ROCKNROLL #67 ($2.50 from PO Box 288, Berkeley, CA 94701): A fearsomely large lump of music and stuff. Actually, what with letters, outrageous columnists, zine reviews, movie coverage and so on there may be more other stuff, but music is still central to MRR. Interviews in #67 include Thacher on Acid, Adolescents and the Joyce McKinney Experience. Also MRR remains the staunchest home of the punk scene report, with news about local bands and happenings from all over. (S-128t)

* * * * *

MAYDAY! #6 ($3/yr from PO Box 536, Atlanta, GA 30031-0536): The continental anarchist newsletter that has grown out of the annual gatherings. This issue is rather encouraging, featuring a lot of open debate (and some annoying name-calling) about the structure and direction of the anarchist movement in this country. Alas, frequent publication is hindered by lack of money, as there are too many free riders, but the potential is definitely here. (S-20)

* * * * *

MEDIAWATCH Vol. 2 #9 ($1 (?) from Media Research Center, 111 S. Columbus St., Alexandria, VA 22314): This is the conservative counterpart to **EXTRA!**. It documents in as great detail as possible the liberal biases of the media. This issue, published last September, is devoted to showing that the newsmen picked on the Republican convention while letting the Democrats get away with murder. (S-8t)

* * * * *

MEDICI COUCH ($1 (?) from Winged Monkeys, 363 NE 20th Terr., Miami, FL 33137): A SubGenius sort of publication composed chiefly of newspaper clippings. These are combined and collaged into some mutant stew of current affairs, with bits of swirly art in the interstices. This issue also contains the pieces to make a giant Dobbshead and some stirring rhetoric from the 60s. (S-16)

* * * * *

MELODY #2 ($2.50 & Age Statement from Kitchen Sink Press, 2 Swamp Rd., Princeton, WI 54968): "The True Story of a Nude Dancer" continues in this comic. Actually, the title character isn't dancing yet in this installment as Sylvie Rancourt and Jacques Boivin are taking their time with character development. Right now it's a romp through the love lives of a somewhat extended family, including one nude dancer and a few other folks. Some sex and nudity, but the main focus is on understanding people. (S-32)

* * * * *

MEN TALK Vol. 12 #4 ($2.50 from The Men's Center, 3255 S. Hennepin ave. #45, Minneapolis, MN 55408): A visible outcropping of the Men's movement, an attempt by men to find themselves and, having found themselves, figure out what to do about it. #4 is largely focused on birth, with reviews of Judy Chicago's "The Birth Project" and personal stories from prospective and actual fathers. (S-24t)

* * * * *

MESECHABE #1 ($10/yr from 7712 Cohn #2, New Orleans, LA 70118): A new bioregional publication for dwellers along the Mississippi River, taking its name from a more primal version of the river's. The first issus is mostly concerned to set out the idea of bioregionalism and to differentiate it from Green politics and environmentalism. Actions against toxic wastes also get good coverage. (S-24t)

* * * * *

META-SCOOP Vol. 5 #11/12 ($2 from 1004 Live Oak, Arlington, TX 76012): A wide-ranging New Age (or something close to it) journal. In #11/12 they cover everything from fluoridation of water (emphasizing the negative aspects) to the aims of Sufism. They've also started a program to get rid of excess fanzines cheap — send any amount of money and they'll use half for postage and the rest as a donation. (S-12t)

* * * * *

METHOD ZINE #3-4 (50¢ from Eric, 19038 Canadian Ct., Gaithersburg, MD 20879-2960): A skatezine that mostly concentrates on the sport (skateboarding, for those of you who are slow) but also has music and zine coverage. #3 reviews more other zines in the genre than anywhere else I've seen, and has some neat pics of skating in someone's basement on a ramp. #4 has a questionnaire for readers and lots of pics from the editor's national tour. (D-24)

* * * * *

MICRO MAN #1 (50¢ & a stamp from Omega Comics, Charles Baldock, 604 Sheridan Rd., Evansville, IN 47710): A rather deliberately confusing minicomic. The first of two stories here breaks down the barriers between dimensions and universes to muddle together the title character and his nemesis with a lot of other famous comics. The bonus story, "The Bionic Samurai", seems to be senseless violence, but it's also mildly self-referential. (M-16)

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MICROWAVE NEWS Vol. VIII #5 ($130/3 issues from PO Box 1799, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163): Yes, that price is right; you can get a single copy for $50. This is probably *the* place to turn for information on "Non-Ionizing Radiation", which includes microwaves, magnetic fields, and so on. The biological effects are of prime concern, and the latest studies on things like VDTs and high-tension power lines are reported. They also give many, many references into the technical literature, and have a good grasp of the issues and relevant science. (S-16t)

* * * * *

THE MILL HUNK HERALD #20 ($3 from 916 Middle St., Pittsburgh, PA 15212): A journal of writing by and about workers. This ranges all the way from accounts of labor history to poetry about current jobs. Much of this is quite good, and there's enough to satisfy almost anyone. Susan Erem's "Hightailing It" is a deeply moving story that shows that some things never change, at least not when corporate greed is involved. (S-88t)

* * * * *

MINI EXAMINER Vol. 10 #16-19 ($1 from Irene Stephenson, PO Box 3893, Chatsworth, CA 91313): A sheet of biorhythm character analysis. Irene publishes her analyses of various celebrities, from Elizabeth Taylor to Alex Trebek. These tend to be sort of folksy, based on the birthdates as well as public info. For various fees she will apply her skills to analysing your own life & problems. (S-4r)

* * * * *

MINI PIX #1 (50¢ from Bruce Chrislip, 8057 13th NW, Seattle, WA 98117): A minicomic of single-page drawings, mostly of rather strange looking people. Bruce has got some intriguing characters here, but without any attempt at combining them into a story, this remains just a curious sketchpad. (M-24)

* * * * *

MINNEAPOLIS ALTERNATIVE SCENE #5 ($1.50 from Dan Siskind, 5245 James Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55419): A mix of music, youth and anarchy — a potent combination indeed. The editorials are sensible, the anarchist primer reasonable, and the interviews with Government Issue, Libido Boys and Iron Fist in #5 are a lot of fun. It's nice to see new forms of activism springing up in the alternative scene. #6 is a special animal rights primer issue, along with a few odds and ends like the latest story of brutal pigs in the city. (D-50t)

* * * * *

MINNESOTA PARENT Vol. 3 #10 ($15/yr from 100 W. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404): "The Resource for Active Twin Cities Parents", stuffed with ideas about where to take the kids and what to do with them when you get there. Though this part is pretty specific to Minneapolis, the Christmas toy suggestions are more-or-less universal. Also includes stories and tips on parenting. (T-32t)

* * * * *

MINNESOTA SPECTATOR Vol. III #1 ($15/yr from PO Box 13651, Minneapolis, MN 55414): A conservative paper for the University of Minnesota crowd. This issue came out just before the election, so it's not surprising that they spent a bunch of it pounding on Dukakis (they even sold t-shirts with "On Furlough — Massachusetts State Pen"). In general, they seem a lot more lightweight than the Ivy League equivalents or even **CAMPUS REVIEW**, the best of the breed. (S-24t)

* * * * *

THE MINNESOTA WOMEN'S PRESS Vol. 4 #16-19 ($25/yr from 2395 University Ave., St. Paul, MN 55114): A newspaper of women's activities and values. #16 includes an examination of the coverage of women by mainstream newspapers and a look at how women's organizations grapple with issues of small-scale capitalism, which continues as a series. (T-16t)

* * * * *

MISC! #27 ($2.50 from Bob Pfeffer, 424 Ajax Rd, Gilbert, MN 55741); This was the Holloween Special issue of this minicomic, but they're probably recovered and put out another issue by now. There are cartoons and strips from about two dozen contributors inside, ranging from gross monsters to a sadistic Pillsbury Dough-boy to funny animal comics. Pretty packed and mostly above average. (M-60)

* * * * *

MODERN ART (50¢ from M. Cusimano, PO Box 2565, Harvard Square Stn., Cambridge, MA 02238): A minicomic from the publisher of **UNDERGROUND SURREALIST** magazine. This one pokes fun at the trendiest of art styles, while allowing the screwiest of comic style primitivism to shine through. (M-8)

* * * * *

MODOM #1 (25¢ & SASE from 2251 Helton Dr. #N7, Florence, AL 35630): The latest broadside from Jake Berry. It's a sheet of collage, drawing, and bits of language, some of the latter very close to the primordial ooze. A chaotic whirlwind of detail that draws the eye along in vast patterns. (O-1)

* * * * *

MOE AND DETRITUS #2 (50¢ from David Lee Ingersoll, PO Box 15082, Santa Rosa, CA 95402): A comic of the "Highly Unlikely Adventures" of these two New Wavoid types. In #2 they are present at the appearance of a streetcorner Elvis ghost, with intriguing results. (M-12)

* * * * *

MONDO HUNKAMOOGA #7 ($10/6 issues from Proper Tales Press, Box 789, Stn. F, Toronto, ONT M4Y 2N7, CANADA): A journal of the small press in the traditional sense: that is, literary and poetic magazines and projects. In this issue, they talk with poet/editor/teacher Frank Davey, let Shaunt Basmajian ramble about the nature of poetry, and pay tribute to the recently deceased bpNichol. They also let lots of critics take their shots in a nasty lettercolumn. (S-16t)

★★★★★

MONK #6 ($2.50 from 369 Montezuma #137, Santa Fe, NM 87501): Published by Mike and Jim Monk, who, along with their cats and a bizarre motorhome, are among the few constantly-travelling publishers in the country. They spent a few months in Texas and this issue emerged, replete with tales of auto breakdown, Lady Bird Johnson interviews, a visit to a hypermart, and advice on surviving the coming ice age. Supported by a lot of healthy and new age businesses, this is a mix of humor, travelogue, serious and friendly people, high camp cross-dressing, and enlightenment. (S-102t)

★★★★★

THE MONKEES BOYCE & HART PHOTO FAN CLUB #79-80 (75¢ & SASE from PO Box 411, Watertown, SD 57201-0411): One of the few genuine fan-zines I've seen, that is, zines for fans of a particular group. In this case, it's the Monkees (I have no idea who Tommy Boyce and Bobby Hart, who get second billing, are). Features include ads for those buying and selling memorabilia, news on where the guys are now, photo sales lists, and convention reports. (S-12)

★★★★★

THE MONITOR #13/14 ($15/yr from Center for Democratic Renewal, PO Box 50469, Atlanta, GA 30302): These folks are trying to fight the influence of the Klan, the Christian Identity Movement, the Revisionists, and others they see as enemies of social justice and tolerance. They do a good job of drawing together the big picture, though occasionally they get carried away by rhetoric. Still, this helps lend balance to an otherwise unheard view in many cases. (S-16t)

★★★★★

MONSTER Vol. 1 #1-4 (35¢ from Timothy Paxton, MPO Box 67, Oberlin, OH 44074-0067): A new single-sheeter dedicated to one small subgenre of the film world: the monster movie. Timothy isn't even interested in branching out to clasher flicks. The first issue includes notes on Child's Play and This Island Earth, as well as a scan of the new horror TV shows. #2 includes notes on a couple of classics, Frankenstein & Godzilla. (S-2r)

★★★★★

MOSHABLE #3 ($2 from Lars Krogh, Jernbanegade 16, 9800 Hjorring, DENMARK): A hardcore zine that, despite its place of publication, is almost entirely in English. Lots of photos accompany articles about bands from all over Europe (and sometimes the USA). A few of the dozen or so groups in #3: Spazztic Blurr, Heibel, Life Sentence, and Sons of Ishmael. (A4-24r)

★★★★★

MOTORBOOTY #3 ($2.50 from PO Box 7944, Ann Arbor, MI 48107): A music and underground art zine, with perhaps a bit more emphasis on the latter. This issue starts off with an extensive Robert Williams interview, including reproductions of some of his Zombie Mystery Paintings. Musically, they get to Spahn Ranch, Markie Ramone, and Halo of Flies. There's also plenty of art, including strange Freudian comics from dancey and a probably-actionable "Matt Groaning" page. (S-40t)

★★★★★

MSRRT NEWSLETTER Nov. 1988-Jan. 1989 (45¢ stamp from Chris Dodge, 4645 Columbus Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407): This one is acting to get alternative periodicals into libraries by reviewing them as part of the Minnesota Library Association's activities. SRRT stands for Social Responsibilities Round Table, and the concerns range from nuclear war to Green politics to feeding the hungry to recycling. A wide variety of things are listed, not just periodicals but new ideas as well. (S-18)

★★★★★

MUMBLES AFFORDABLES

At just an SASE for each of these, they are, as publisher John Eberly says, "Disposable — the ultimate small press commodity. Read 'em and Toss 'em. No guilt. Or, if you're the collecting type, these babies *won't* crowd your archive." Order from PO Box 8312, Wichita, KS 67208.

•**GOOD FOR NOTHING**: A story about a guy called The Stupe, who basically goes through school without getting anything right, losing face in a series of bizarre incidents. His life turns around, though, when he joins the Riverside Defense Force Marching Band. (D-4)

•**HAM**: Um, um, um. The centerpiece in this apparent one-shot is an account from a rather verbose gourmet of a visit to Hamburg, Arkansas to find the rural delicacies promised. The story turns into something like a mud-wrestling match before giving way to letters about bedwetting and then some harsh graphics. Maddeningly nonsensical. (D-4)

•**SICK ROOF**: "A Journal of Humorous, Pathetic, and Serious Poetry", this one crams a dozen short works into its pages. Represented are Bill Shields, Jake Berry, Todd Moore, Bob Z., John Bennett and other masters of the suspicious underground work. (D-4)

•**THE SPHINX**: "A Journal of Inscrutability" featuring two short bits. The first is an interview with a club owner who had Elvis come in, transformed through dieting and plastic surgery to a 22-year-old girl, to sing a set and do interpretive dance for it. The second concerns the adventures of a drunk who gets a boon he didn't want from the booze fairies. (D-4)

★★★★★

MUNICH ROUND UP #157 ($1.75 from Andrew Porter, PO Box 2730, Brooklyn, NY 11202-0056): Actually edited by Walderman Kumming (Porter is the U.S. agent), this is a science fiction fanzine which is mainly in German. They do provide an English summary in the front, as well as a guide to the folks in the photos from the Brighton worldcon. Later on Dave Langford's humorous survey of current SF appears in both English and German. But the real meat is for those who can read the language — primarily extensive convention reports in this issue. (A4-56)

★★★★★

MURTAUGH (2 stamps from Spike Vrusho, 29 W. Moler, Columbus, OH 43207): A roundup of Ohio culture and little-boadcast news. The proliferation of Pintos, bank robberies, car bombings, scenesters and baseball are among the subjects covered here, with the backgrounds being a mix of notepaper and collage. (S-7)

★★★★★

MUSHROOM TIMES #1 ($6.50 from Century Publishing, PO Box 3239, Citrus Heights, CA 95621): With a price like that these folks don't mean the ones you can buy in your corner grocery store. The focus here is on the psychedelic drug varieties, notably Amanita Muscaria, though some others are mentioned as well. Trip reports, gathering notes, and growing tips are the bulk of what's here, together with book reviews and some interesting ads. (S-42t)

★★★★★

THE MUTANT'S BOOK OF SECRET MAPS ($1 (?) From 163 Ludlow St. #1D, New York, NY 10002-1516): A group of selected demographic maps, showing such things as "Accidental castrations, annually by state" and "Insects consumed in natural food salads". The whole is presented with marginalia consisting of story fragments and oriental lettering. Bizarre. (D-22)

★★★★★

MY FAVORITE BOOK OF BEASTS ("We are open to exchange, whatever that may be" from Bonforth Collective, 1004 Danforth Ave., Toronto, ONT M4J 1M2, CANADA): A collection of collage assembled with much labor, on a variety of sizes from postcard to poster. The main themes here seem to be building, travel, and creation, but there is much latitude for interpretation. Lots of work went into this, and the patient soul can get much out of it. (S-25)

★★★★★

THE MYSTERY FANCIER Vol. 10 #3 ($7.50 from Guy M. Townsend, 407 Jefferson St., Madison, IN 47250): A very erudite mystery reader's zine, complete with footnotes, index, and other scholarly attachments. The articles are well-written and fascinating, if at times a bit trivial: do many really care for an essay based on Ellery Queen stories with a sports theme? Lots of book reviews here, plus occasional publishing history (as with George Tuttle's article on Gold Medal Books in this issue). (D-104t)

★★★★★

THE NCF GUIDE TO CANADIAN SCIENCE FICTION AND FANDOM ($2 from PO Box 4655, PSSE, Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 5G5, CANADA): The third edition of this handy reference on science fiction and its readers in Canada. Contents include a survey of the field and bibliography of Canadian SF writers, "What to do at a Convention", a glossary of fanspeak, notes on publishing a fanzine, and notes on various awards. Worth looking at for neos in the US as well as those seriously interested in the field. (S-36t)

★★★★★

NEO Vol. 2 #3 ($1 (?) from PO Box 3194, Iowa City, IA 52244): Yes, bunkie, there is new music in Iowa City. Or at least passing through — they devote a couple of pages to indie bands that are about to play gigs there, presumably to inform the locals. Then there are the homegrown Iowa Beef Experience and Punishment Club, plus an article about a progressive dance company. (T-12t)

★★★★★

NEOLOGY #65 ($1.50 from ESFACAS, Box 4071, Postal Station South, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 4S8, CANADA): Lots of good stuff in this long-running sfanzine. There's a reprinted Fannish Purity Test (I wonder if this can be traced back to the one I ran through **LASFAPA** a decade ago?), zine reviews, and some history of the zine over the past decade. Also con reports, club news, letters, and nice art, in a desktop format that's every bit as good (though less traditional) than the old mimeo. (S-36t)

★★★★★

NEW AGE NEWS Vol. 3 #6 ($20/yr from PO Box 566714, Atlanta, GA 30356): A New Age paper that seems more reasonable than most in the field. Among other things, they recognize that the "New Age" is different things to different people and that not everyone interested in it believes the most ridiculous pap. Regular columns range from serious metaphysical discussion to the fun of Swami Beyondananda. Your subscription includes a 10% discount at a whole lot of local businesses too. (T-28t)

★★★★★

NEW BLOOD Fall 1988 ($4 from Chris Lacher, 540 W. Foothill Blvd. #3730, Glendora, CA 91740): Horror fiction which crosses the boundaries away from good taste with a bit too much frequency. The writers here don't shy away from sex and violence, and what they do with the combination can be pretty gruesomely misogynistic. Still, the total effect is to make one shudder, and they do that well. Wayne Allen Sallee, William Rose, Steve Rasnic Tem and James A. Lee are among the contributors to this issue. (S-56t)

★★★★★

THE NEW CRUCIBLE Oct.-Nov. 1988 ($1 from Garry De Young, PO Box 7252, Spencer, IA 51301-7252): "A Magazine about Man and his

Environment" from our own resident curmudgeon. In the October issue Garry is mostly concerned with the fires this summer, reprinting a lot of mainstream press coverage and some Congressional correspondence on the topic. He also gets in a few essays of his own dealing with everything from atheism to firefighting. (S-40)

★★★★★

NEW ENVIRONMENT BULLETIN #157-159 ($6.50/yr from Bill Case, 120 Academy St., Manlius, NY 13104): One of the internal communication mechanisms of the New Environment Association, a group of folks interested in working for a better world. They have some plans, a lot of interests, and a somewhat cloudy vision, but seemingly a large amount of energy. They have a continuing series of meetings, some aimed at planning, others at doing things like getting some land and getting to work on it. (S-6t)

★★★★★

THE NEW FEDERALIST Vol. II #32 ($15/25 issues from PO Box 889, Leesburg, VA 22075): The looney-tune successor to Lyndon LaRouche's previous newspaper, **NEW SOLIDARITY**. It's still full of the same funny ravings on the IMF, the disastrous policies of both Republicans and Democrats, and the need to make LaRouche dictator to save the country. Well, they don't come right out and say the latter, but it's sure there. Funny and scary. (T-12t)

★★★★★

THE NEW GODS! (75¢ & 50¢ SASE from 810 W. 25th St. #6, Cedar Falls, IA 50613): If measured by the number of deities cited, this is the revelation to end all revelations, presaging another snide religion in the footsteps of Discordianism and SuGeniality.This pamphlet lists the new Gods, explains a bit on their powers, and closes with slapdash amateur renderings of a few. (S-12)

★★★★★

NEW HOPE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW SUPPLEMENT 1988/89 ($2 from 20 Werneth Avenue, Gee Cross, Hyde, SK14 5NL, ENGLAND): A review of the small press, mainly English but including a scattering of American items, and tilted towards poetry but not overwhelmingly so. Around 100 reviews total of books, cassettes, and zines, with a dozen or more reviewers taking part to ease the individual workloads. Unfortunately this leads to things like some zines getting two lines while others get whole pages, and a few not being reviewed at all ("Review not returned"), but the whole is rather informative. (A5-28)

★★★★★

NEW OPTIONS #52-54 ($2 from PO Box 19324, Washington, DC 20036): This newsletter exists mainly to describe our options for the future — or rather, to describe those options most often ignored by existing institutions of policy. #52, for example, leads off with a consideration of changing society to disaccomodate the automobile, a radical yet attractive idea. Lots of contacts listed within the alternative policy biz. #53 is an issue devoted to "Don't Let the Election Get You Down", trying to put some hope into the Bush years. #54 reports on the state of SANE/FREEZE a few years after their merger. (S-8t)

★★★★★

NEW PATHWAYS #13 ($4 from MGA Services, PO Box 863994, Plano, TX 75086-3994): Sporting a jaunty dayglo cover, this science fiction mag is still publishing all manner of interesting stuff, both cutting edge and traditional. Robert Frazier's "The Memories That Flash" might fall in the latter category, were it not for the hallucinations of Sir Isaac Newton infesting an otherwise hard SF story. Don Webb is back with his usual twisted view of the world with the post-nuclear "Rex", and Misha interviews Matt Howarth. Art comes from Shea, Bilokur, Ferret, Mole, Howarth and more. A nifty package that's expanding with film reviews and more new directions to come. (S-48t)

★★★★★

NEW PLAYS & PLAYWRIGHTS Vol. 2 #5 ($2 (?) from PO Box 14524, Chicago, IL 60614): Everything you always wanted to know about Midwest drama, with a focus on Chicago but wandering as far afield as Minneapolis and Indiana. Feaatures include interviews with playwrights and directors, news on upcoming and in-progress works, and some guidance for the beginning playwright. Distributed to all sorts of industry folks so you may want to send your rpess releases here if theater is one of your things. (S-32t)

★★★★★

NEW ROUTE #4 ($3/yr from 114 E. 28th St. #400, New York, NY 10016): Well, you've heard the term "college music" — now you can see what it means, thanks to this short slick. They distribute via a batch of college radios tations, with short stories on folks like They Might Be Giants, the Feelies, and Sugarcubes. Still, they also cover Suicidal Tendencies and Joy Division, so it's not all pop. (D-24t)

★★★★★

THE NEWS Vol. IV #16 ($15/yr from Atlanta Gay Center, 63 Twelfth St., Atlanta, GA 30309): A paper for the gay and lesbian community in Atlanta that is oriented towards networking and linking people up with services. The AGC provides everything from support groups to clinics as well as this tabloid. Stories in this issue include news about KS research and comments on the difficulty of taking an accurate census of sexual behaviour in this country. (T-12t)

★★★★★

NEWS & LETTERS Vol. 33 #9-10 ($2.50/yr from 59 E. Van Buren #707, Chicago, IL 60605): A journal of Marxist-Humanism. On the plus side, they don't have much use for the current systems of the West *or* the East, so they're not blind to the abuses of state capitalism. On the minus, I found their guru Raya Dunayevskaya's analysis of Hegel to be mind-numbing. Their current labor news is decent, but suffers from the usual Marxist syndrome of looking for a parade to plant themselves in front of. (T-12t)

★★★★★

THE NEWS ABOUT NOISE #3 ($1.65 from Adam Gray, 1354 Port Washington Blvd., Port Washington, NY 11050): About the only zine with even more mixed-up reviews than mine: they put zines, music, live shows, videos all willly-nilly in the same section. This issue also includes a poetry page, interviews with Naked Raygun, Prong, and Rapeman, and a free sticker. Lots of editorial vigor makes it more than just another ho-hum music paper. (S-32r)

★★★★★

THE NEW SETTLER INTERVIEW #35-37 ($10/12 issues from PO Box 730, Willits, CA 95490): A magazine of, as it says, interviews. But this isn't trendy Andy Warhol garbage. Instead Beth Bosk and crew talk to real people in a nice area of California. #35 is a special "Challenging Gender" issue, with a lesbian commune child, a water birther, a midwife, a cross dresser, and other interesting folks. #36 includes Bill Devall, a deep ecologist who seems to be a reasonable guy. #37 has words from Les Scher about finding a place in the country, winning lawsuits, and other legal topics. A great read for a night by the fire. (S-56t)

★★★★★

NEWS FROM INDIAN COUNTRY Vol. II #12 ($12/yr from Rt. 2 Box 2900-A, Hayward, WI 54843): A regional Native American paper concentrated on Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Michigan. They cover just about everything: recent court cases (including ones in other areas), cultural heritage, current events and pow-wows, and more. The letters page is fun and there's a moving editorial on wise hunting in #12. Also has a pull-out section on casinos, bingo and so on run by tribes in the 4-state area. (T-40t)

★★★★★

NEWS FROM THE MOTHER GROVE Vol. 2 #1 ($1 (?) from ADF, PO Box 1022, Nyack, NY 10960): The internal newsletter of Ar nDraiocht Fein, the major Druid organization in this country (probably in the world) today. The address above is central HQ, where you should inquire about membership. Contents include a listing of regional contacts and letters from members about current pagan events. (D-12t)

★★★★★

NEWSLETTER WITH NO NAME Vol. 1 #3-7 ($5-$25 *[sliding scale]* from R.K. West, PO Box 8044, Mission Hills, CA 91346): An extra-MENSAn activity which seems to be largely carried on by Mensans, this newsletter is a forum for discussion of all sorts of stuff. #3 has Asa Sparks discussing the living of lies and a bit of fiction about making gay porno; #6 includes several attempts to sort out the basics of philosophy. The letters are fun and argumentative as well. (D-16)

★★★★★

NEW UNIONIST #136-138 (30¢ from 621 W. Lake St. #210, Minneapolis, MN 55408): A socialist/syndicalist paper that seeks to bring the economy under control of the workers for the benefit of all. #136 contains an analysis of the relations between capital and the environment, blaming many of our current problems on the economic system involved. #137 talks about strategies for social change and analyzes the demise of American bomb-making prowess. #138 focuses on homeless workers and includes an inside expose of the Salvation Army. (T-4t)

★★★★★

A NEW WORLD RISING #7-8 (Donation from Proletarian Warriors, Box 33, 77 Ives St., Providence, RI 02906): A revolutionary youth paper that's getting wide distribution at Grateful Dead shows and similar venues. With an incredible arty cluttered layout, it speaks to those with time to absorb a cultural message of resistance rather than the academic folks. They're calling for a revolution now, building the new world instead of fighting against the old. (T-8r)

★★★★★

NIGHTWATCH Vol. 3 #10-12 ($15/yr from Security and Intelligence Foundation 2800 Shirlington Rd. #405, Arlington, VA 22206): A magazine designed to convince us that spooks and spies are good and necessary as long as that Evil Empire is still around. Their worldview is neatly summed up by their tagging as a former KGB member, "according to rumor, President Gorbachev". #12 supports the McCarran-Walter act for throwing subversives out of America as a matter of "societal rights" over individual rights. (S-16t)

★★★★★

NINE INNINGS #5 (The Usual (including $1 or old Tiger baseball cards) from Andrew Hooper, 315 N. Ingersoll St., Madison, WI 53703): This is theoretically about baseball, a subject which holds roughly as much interest for me as the care and feeding of Shih Tzu show dogs. Amazingly enough, Andrew makes it all interesting, primarily by digressing so many times in the course of discussing one Cubs game that I could quite ignore those guys with sticks and stuff. Other topics include his relationship with his father, Luke McGuff's TAFF candidacy, and eating on America's highways. (S-19)

★★★★★

NO CIRC NEWSLETTER Vol. 3 #1 ($1 from National Organization of Circumcision Information Research Centers, PO Box 2512, San Anselmo, CA 94960): A central point in the "Intact Baby Movement" — i.e., people who want to put an end to circumcision on unconsenting infants. They marshal a variety of legal, ethical, and medical arguments to make their point, and the statistics seem to indicate the more and more Americans are agreeing. (D-8t)

★★★★★

NO COVER #10 ($1 (?) from Java Productions, PO Box 2075, Stn. A, Champaign, IL 61820): Sporting a new typeset look, this zine still uses record reviews to anchor their coverage. In fact, they're mostly music, though social conscience does poke its head up with articles about student aid and media bias. Alice Donut, Roger Miller and Poster Children are among the featured groups. (S- 28t)

★★★★★

NOCTULPA #3 ($4 from PO Box 5175, Long Island City, NY 11105): Horror fiction in the classic mode: lots of atmosphere, carefully constrained violence only when there's a point for it, and jackhammer surprises in the final few words. Donald Blanford's "Emigre" shines in this regard, taking Paris in 1792 and adding the outre to the ordinary run of the Terror. John Moore does the same for the Viet Nam war in "If Jesus Loves You." The illustrations, done specificially for the stories, deserve a special nod as well. (D-68t)

★★★★★

THE NOCTURNAL LYRIC #6-7 ($1.25 from PO Box 2602, Pasadena, CA 91102-2602): A collection of stories, art and poetry. #6 leaves a sour taste when it's over, thanks to Michael Brownstein's "The Asylum" being the last story. Its icky view of death is somewhat balanced by Susan's "Dreaming", which treats the same subject in a more upbeat fashion. The poetry is a third side, mostly seeming wistful, and not necessarily death-centered. (D-22)

★★★★★

NOCTURNE #1 ($4 (?) from PO Box 1715, Chicago, IL 60690): A lush new entry into the field of macabre publishing. The horror stories and poems and pictures here have an almost baroque quality about them, a fascination with the careful description of aberrant states vaguely reminiscent of early Lovecraft. Contributors include t. winter-damon, Denise Dumars, Jessica Amanda Salmonson, and Thomas Wiloch. An impressive premiere. (S-68t)

★★★★★

NO IDEA #66 ($2.50 from Var Thelin, 3925 SW 3rd Ave., Gainesville, FL 32607): A walloping-large pfanzine that has a lot of positive energy about it — not to mention a Doldrums hard vinyl EP for you lovers of loud music. Doldrums are also big in the interview section, along with Operation Ivy, Swans, Fishbone, SDT and more. Plenty of live show reports, lots of photos, comics, reviews...what more could you want? (S-64t)

★★★★★

THE NOISE #78-79 ($10/12 issues from Timothy Maxwell, 74 Jamaica St., Boston, MA 02130): Music and music gossip from the Boston area. #78 includes features on the elusive band Cxema and cartoonist Tony Fitzgerald, whose hilarious work has been gracing the mag for years now. The next issue has Big Barn Burning, Mission of Burma, Drumming on Glass, and gossip about the most memorable New Year's for a bunch of scenesters. (S-24)

★★★★★

NOISE, NOISE, NOISE!! (US$2 postpaid from Kami, c/- TOPFM, PO Box 40146, Casuarina NT, AUSTRALIA 0821): A music zine that talks mostly to bands from down under (La Sect Rouge, King Snake Roost, Mass Appeal & others in this issue) but includes music and zine reviews from overseas. The layout alternates between clean and collaged, bouncing with the writing from punk to rock and back again. Includes a bonus mini-zine of thoughts and drawings from a couple of concerned staffers. (A4-34r)

★★★★★

NOMADIC UNDERGROUND #8 ($1.50 from PO Box 18672, Washington, DC 20036): This one is mostly music, centered on the DC scene, but they fill in the nooks and crannies with poetry and short stories, giving it a less obsessive feel than many pfanzines. Featured bands here are Fugazi and Rapeman; creative contributions come from Curtis Olson, De Villo Sloan, and others. A nice bit of zine-world crossover. (S-28r)

★★★★★

NOMISTIC HALLUCINATIONS #1 (45¢ from Lee Ann Nikki, PO Box 2602, Pasadena, CA 91102-2602): A new forum for art from the publishers of the **NOCTURNAL LYRIC**. This first issue features all work from the editor, mostly soft-edged acid trips and aliens, though with a few jagged bits thrown in. (D-8)

★★★★★

NO OTHER WAY #1 (SASE from PO Box 2214, Fair Oaks, CA 95628): This started out to be a music zine, but about the only remnant of that now is the interview with The Lead. The rest reflects the editor's religious views, which are pretty fervently Christian. Jesus gets a lot of good PR here, but it's more in the "Do the right thing" mode than hell-raising Bible-thumping. (HL-16r)

★★★★★

NORTHERN SUN NEWS Vol. 11 #9-Vol. 12 #1 ($15/yr from 1519 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404):Ten years old and still going fairly strong, NSN shows that not all activism burns out with age. Their primary focus remains shutting down the nukes, though debates over proper means of vaster change have been occupying the letter column lately. #1 focuses in on the deteriorating nuclear infrastructure and other trends in nukes for the 90s. (T-16t)

★★★★★

NORTHWEST EXTRA! Vol. 1 #1 ($10/12 issues from 416 Washington SE #208, Olympia, WA 98501): An alternative paper that is fairly lightweight but still enjoyable. They include syndicated columns from Hunter Thompson, Dave Marsh, Joe Bob Briggs and Chuck Shepherd, as well as more serious articles like the one on the UFW's anti-pesticide fight. Interactive videos and college basketball are among the other subjects in the premiere issue. (T-16t)

★★★★★

NOSE #4 ($5 (?) from Ethan Pettit, 209 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11211): A poster-sized, limited-edition, silked-screen broadside of the new arts. Though it looks pretentious and trendy, and even sounds that way sometimes, it is undeniably sincere — a novel experience for those forced to read the arts press. #4 considers the nature of small press's cutting edge today and comments on the music of Brian Dewan. (O-1)

★★★★★

NO SHIT #18 ($1 (?) from 6301 Sunset #103, Los Angeles, CA 90028): A music and politics zine centered around the Hollywood club scene. They do a lot of ragging on Reagan in this (pre-election) issue, but they also manage to talk about a lot of unsigned club bands and a show review of the Divinyls. There's also stuff on a handbill ordinance that's got the cops coming down hard on scenesters; has anyone made the connection with the New York poster police yet? (S-40)

★★★★★

THE NOTE Vol. 3 #4-5 ($9.95/12 issues from 735 1/2 New Hampshire, Lawrence, KS 66044): "The Midwest Guide to Music & Entertainment" is still growing and getting more extensive coverage of the various scenes around Kansas. Certainly the state isn't as dead as it is flat. #5, the December issue, includes musical gift ideas and an interview with Santa Claus, as well as the regular features. (T-32t)

★★★★★

NOTEBOOK: A LITTLE MAGAZINE Vol. 4 #2 ($5 from PO Box 170, Barstow, CA 92312-0170): As with previous Winter issues, this one is subtitled "La Raza Cosmica", and it focuses on Chicano and Latino writing, emphasizing their connections with the wider literary scene as well as their inner-directedness. Though there is some Spanish-language content, all is translated, and with a bit of effort the unusual imagery begins to bring to life a different way of living. Special compliments to the poetry of Koryne Ortega and the story from Gabriela Cerda. (D-109)

★★★★★

NOTE FOR NOTE #3 1/2 ($1 (?) from Steve Roeser, 2646 1/2 Griffith Park Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90039): A music zine that seems disconnected from the rest of the underground — either that, or determined to follow an original format. Artists covered include Dylan (a long story on Dylan covers by other musicians anchors the zine), Gregg Allman, and Fairport Convention — not exactly the underground. Record reviews do get to more obscure stuff. (S-12t)

★★★★★

NOTES FROM THE DUMP Vol. 2 #38-39 ($24/yr from PO Box 39, Acworth, NH 03601): Rambling notes from an entertaining personality name of Terry Ward. Yes, he does work in a dump (for all I know, lives there too), and writes of traffic accidents and sixties reminiscences and who knows what else. #39 features dark musings on crime and punishment, sparked by some senseless violence in the hinterlands. (S-6)

★★★★★

NOTES FROM THE NEST ($4 from 7882 Michigan Ave., Oakland, CA 94605): A personal journal by Kurt Brecht, which for some reason came packaged with a pair of dice and a playing card. This dates from when Kurt, lead singer for D.R.I., was living in a tree in Golden Gate Park. It's pretty good writing, interspersed with song lyrics, interesting, and capped with a selection of haiku. (D-40t)

★★★★★

NOTES FROM UNDER THE FLOORBOARDS Vol. 3 #1 ($1 (?) from Lance Swanson, PO Box 1949, Warren, OH 44482-1949): A zine from APA-Lambda, which is reviewed above. Lance also distributes his thoughts independently of the larger production, in case you want to read about erotic poetry, gay literature, and some choice bits from film and cartoon. (S-13)

★★★★★

NOVA EXPRESS Vol. 2 #1 ($3 from 1115 Drava Ln., Houston, TX 77090): A zine of science fiction review and analysis. The authors here tackle some big questions: there are surveys of feminist SF, hacker SF, and splatterpunk in this issue, along with an extended dissection of the "Asimov Presents" line of books. High-quality serious work. (S-27t)

★★★★★

NUCLEAR BULL CRUST #10 (25¢ from 1820 Redwood Ln., Davis, CA 95616): A youthful voice of opposition to the system, not yet poisoned by too much time fighting the nonsense that pervades the left. There's stuff here on monkeywrenching, the abuses of MacDonalds, the failings of politics and the nonsense of progress. Looking for more people to help write and draw exciting things. (HL-12)

★★★★★

NUTZ #7 (The Usual, I suppose, from Pam Wells, 24A Beech Rd., Bowes Park, London, N11 2DA, ENGLAND): Pam starts this off with a batch of fan award and fan fund politics, but after this baffling descent into tedium she puts together a good bunch of (science fiction) fannish stuff. The best of the lot is Mike Christie's taxonomy of irritating people to have in conversations, though Lucy Huntzinger's account of Saint Yo Mama is darned close. (A4-20)

★★★★★

O B D N C Jan. 1989 (Contribution from 142 Washington St. #305, Binghamton, NY 13901): An anarchist tabloid apparently inspired into being by the Philadelphia planning meeting for the '89 gathering. There's ideas here on what to do locally to reach out to the community (in the spirit of help rather than confrontation), a collage of repressive tidbits, and some jumbled thoughts and feelings. No heavy ideological line here. (T-8t)

★★★★★

THE OBLIGATOR Vol. 1 #6-Vol. II #1 ($1 from Mark Hodges, PO Box 915, Muskegon, MI 49443-0915): "A non-denominational publication dedicated to spreading The Word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the medium of heavy metal, punk, and thrash music." What sets this apart from other Christian punk zines is that you have to wade through pages of sometimes heavy-handed evangelicizing to get to any interviews or reviews. In fact, the music content is much the lesser of the two topics; they really want to save your soul as a first priority. The Lead and Commanded to Rock are the groups talked to in #1. (S-12r)

★★★★★

THE OCCASIONAL JOURNAL OF NOTHING IN PARTICULAR Vol. 3 #2 ($1 *Cash* from Geoffrey Fourmile, PO Box 419, Lafayette, CO 80026): A rambling screed with minor SubGenius overtones and references that definitely lives up to its title. In #2 Fourmile (who calls himself a Nihilist Absurdist) snarks at the current state of the Boulder area counterculture. (HL-4)

★★★★★

OCCASIONAL OBSESSION #1 ($1 from Sunn Thomas, 614 Fulton #3, San Antonio, TX 78212): For every interest there is a zine. This is basically a one-shot, dedicated to Jem — who, for those of you in the dark, is a Hasbro-developed competitor to Barbie with her own rock music TV cartoon. Sunn and collaborator Jeff Decuir provide a wealth of trivia about the show and analyse its appeal, worldview, and implications for the music of the nineties. (D-40t)

★★★★★

THE ODINIST #116-117 ($8/yr from PO Box 1647, Crystal River, FL 32629): A newsletter from some folks who are interested in preserving and reconstructing the culture of the early Aryans. #117 begins a series "Against Capitalism, Against Marxism", based on Qadaffi's **GREEN BOOK**. It's also got a bit of history of the last two decades of Asatru/Odinism in the US. (S-10)

★★★★★

THE OFFENSE NEWSLETTER #83-84 ($1 from PO Box 12614, Columbus, OH 43212): A slice of the underground music scene, or at least the indie one, such as it is. TKA is on everyone's promo list but only reviews stuff he likes, leading to a lot of records being just listed & dismissed. Also fanzine mentions, and a great letter column including Fred Mills and Joe Piecuch mouthing off at length. (S-7r)

★★★★★

OHIO WRITER Vol. II #6 ($1.50 from PO Box 79464, Cleveland, OH 44107): An advice,market and news source for writers in and around Ohio. There are short reviews of current works, a calendar of events, anda page of announcements, all apparently continuing features. #6 also includes a focus on getting (& using) grants and Charlotte Pressler's attempt to distinguish the "micropress" (most of what FF covers) from the more traditional small press. (S-12t)

★★★★★

OIKOS Vol. 2 #2 (R8/yr or send IRCs from Posbus 36052, 0102 Menlopark, SOUTH AFRICA): An ecologically-minded zine printed in a mix of English and Afrikaans. They seem to be mostly concerned with coming up with sustainable methods for farming and living, and print brief articles on many efforts in these directions. The emphasis is on learning how to live with the earth rather than exploiting it. (D-28)

★★★★★

ONE GIANT FART ON MANKIND #5 (75¢ MO from Alex Nuttall, PO Box 7664, Hampton, VA 23666): "An underground anti-political arts publication" that includes stuff from a bunch of readers. This time around much of it is poetry, more in a sorrowful than angry vein, but still complaining about the world and its injustices. But there's also a crossword puzzle, some strange comics, and little bits of collage floating about the margins. (D-16)

★★★★★

ON GOGOL BOULEVARD Vol. 2 #1/2 ($1 from 151 First Ave. #62, New York, NY 10003): The only way I know of to find out about the independent grass-roots peace movements that are growing up east and west. These folks actually visit each other (when they can), and oppose all the superpowers alike in their quest for a workable, people-based solution. Lots of contact addresses and ideas on building bridges. (S-24t)

★★★★★

ON GUARD #8 ($10/yr from Citizen Soldier, 175 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010): An independent newspaper for and about the members of our armed forces. Much of their effort goes into exposing the systematic abuses of rights that go on under the guise of military discipline. This issue reports on half a dozen deaths during sadistic training, the human costs of GI prostitution in Korea, and the low Agent Orange settlement making its way through the courts. (T-12t)

★★★★★

ON SITE #5 ($1 from Bob Bannister, 230 W. 105th St. #5C, New York, NY 10025): Bob takes a very erudite approach to music criticism, and then applies it to punk, industrial and other outlaw genres. The result is evidence that there is continuity behind even such things as Zoogz Rift and Lydia Lunch. Interviews in #5 include Dave Soldier and Big Fence. Fun stuff and very different. (D-20r)

★★★★★

ON THE ISSUES Vol. X 1988 ($17/8 issues from 97-77 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills, NY 11374): A progressive feminist publication with a rather upscale feel to it but still clearly concerned with women as people rather than political pawns. Kate Millet is interviewed as the centerfold of this issue. There are also stories on the rights of HIV-positive women and Jeni Graham, the high school student who caused an uproar by refusing to dissect a frog. Substantive stuff. (S-28t)

★★★★★

OPEN MAGAZINE ($5 from Open Dialogues, Inc., 215 North Ave. west #21, Westfield, NJ 07090): A rather experimental literary magazine which seeks to "encourage an uninhibited exchange of ideas that encourage change". In practice this seems to mean that their artists, poets, and writers are free to abandon the trappings of their usual forms at will. Lots of photography and a bit of visual poetry (by Miskowski & Huth) give this a nice look, complemented by the careful layout. The flexi from the Masons in the back is a nice final touch. Writers include Thomas Kennedy, Eliot Katz, Greg Ruggiero, and a great many more. (S-60t)

★★★★★

OPEN ROAD #23 ($1.25 from Box 6135, Stn. G, Vancouver, BC V6R 4G5, CANADA): An anarchist tabloid whose forte is direct action. In this issue they report on various actions from 14 different countries, once again drag out the theory that AIDS was deliberately created by the Department of Defense, and look at the various justifications for a vegan diet. (T-12t)

★★★★★

OPEN YOUR EYES #3 ($1.75 from 1415 NE 52nd #403, Seattle, WA 98105): A nice-sized zine of hardcore coverage. Editor John White is obviously concerned with the personal mechanics of the punk scene, and he asks thoughtful questions when he talks to bands. Some of the groups in #3: Youth of Today, Project X, Head First, and Up Front. There's also a large pile of record reviews and a good use of photos throughout. (S-40r)

★★★★★

OPTION #23-24 ($4 from 2345 Westwood Blvd. #2, Los Angeles, CA 90064): With an REM ad on the back, some folks would question the alternativeness of this music slick. But the money from such things makes it possible for them to spend enormous space on (in #23) Wire, the Church, Pere Ubu, W.O.M.A.D., and more obscure groups. #24 includes Richard

Thompson and Elliott Sharp. Though they're not comprehensive (cassette coverage in particular is minor, but it's hard to listen to everything) they get in an awful lot of new music every issue, as well as notes on MIDI and other techiestuff, publications, and indie news. (S-146t)

★★★★★

THE ORACLE Vol. 1 #2-3 ($1 from R.K. West, PO Box 8044, Mission Hills, CA 91346): A small newsletter for shareware users, directed at those in the IBM-standard world. #2 reviews a few products and then gives some advice on using the DIR command to investigate the contents of a new diskette. #3 has some thoughts on viruses, many more reviews, and the COPY command. (S-7)

★★★★★

THE ORACLE AGENTS #2 ($1 from Steve Keeter, 1003 E. Amelia St., Orlando, FL 32803): A superhero comic by Keeter with artwork by Carl Taylor and Larry Blake. In #2, the loose ends of the first story are mostly wrapped up, although a few are left open. The Oracle Agents themselves are a group of minor-league heroes, overshadowed by the cosmic forces battling it out here. (D-20)

★★★★★

THE ORWELLIAN TIMES #17-19 ($2/4 issues from Winston Smith, PO Box 22431, St. Louis, MO 63126): Occasional lessons in matters monetary and spiritual from a strict Constitutionalist who is concerned that our system has been woefully perverted over the years. In recent issues, he's discussed such things as the worthlessness of paper money, the illegitimacy of the 16th amendment, and the deliberate memory holes used to keep this info from the people. (S-2)

★★★★★

OTTERWISE Winter 1988 ($4/4 issues from PO Box 1374, Portland, ME 04104): An animal rights zine aimed at children aged 8-13, on the premise that the time to start with humane education is early. They feature relatively gentle articles on things like fur trapping and the Draize test, along with fun facts about wild animals and ideas on alternative activities like vegan baking. (S-8t)

★★★★★

OUR STORY THUS FAR #3 ($3 from Jabberwocky Graphix, PO Box 166255, Irving, TX 75016): The continuation of the bizarre comic adventures of Mark Simmons, now up to a total of 84 pages — and 84 different artists. Needless to say, the plot is a bit disjointed, but it involves interdimensional war, elder gods, Morty Dog, a disembodied hand, magic glasses, superheroes, aliens, "Bob", and who knows what all. A surprise a minute. (S-32)

★★★★★

OUTER SHELL #38-40 (SASE from PO Box 7053, St. Petersburg, FL 33734): A broadsheet of music and shellfish. #38 takes time out from the usual theme issues to let the contributors do a whole pile of record reviews. #39 includes a skeptical look at the rumors of Elvis being alive and defends rock music from Christians and censors. #40 is back down to two pages but has an interesting interview with a Polish zine publisher. (S4-r)

★★★★★

OUTRAGE #16 (SASE from 108 Schuyler Pl., Ithaca, NY 14850): A mixed bag of alternative and radical politics. Put out by a rather large collective, this is more interested in spreading ideas than hewing to an correct line. Birth control, animal rights, the roasting of ed Meese, and the FEMA plans to declare martial law all get some space in this issue. (HL-12t)

★★★★★

OUT WEST #5 ($6/4 issues from PO Box 19894, Sacramento, CA 95819): Chuck Woodbury is editor and publisher of this tabloid about the American West, where he spends half the year in his motorhome. Lots of great photos, small town trivia, thoughts simple and profound, places to go, signs to see, and cheerful animals make it a winner. I can understand why he's up to 3000 subscribers in just over a year. If you like classic Americana, get this. (T-40t)

★★★★★

OVO #5 (42 from Trevor, PO Box 23061, Knoxville, TN 37933-1061): Another embodiment of this elusive project, dedicated to exploring the boundaries of our world and peeking beyond them. Much of this issue is taken up with an account of Trevor's activities at the '88 anarchist gathering; there are also pages of police riot control techniques and some notes on the physiology of crucifixation. Also of note is the proposal for issue #7, to be centered around the topic of information. (D-52t)

★★★★★

PAGAN APA #41 ($1 or so from Linda Frankel, 10701 Estepa Dr., Oakland, CA 94603): A forum for discussion of paganism and related topics by pagans. It's a reasonably friendly place, though (as in any family) there are a few who are hard to deal with. Topics in #41 include speaking for the pagan community, the Gaia hypothesis, quantum magic, ritual vs. spell, and more. Informal and eclectic. (S-66)

★★★★★

PAGAN FREE PRESS #6 (Donation from PO Box 55223, Tulsa, OK 74155): An open space for pagans, printing a wide selection of things that the readers think are important. This ranges from ideas on being a solitary to dreams of buying retreat land to poetry to magical burn-out. Editor Victor Brotte is also selling pens imprinted with pagan slogans for $1 each; try sending an SASE to see what's available. (D-28r)

★★★★★

PAGANS FOR PEACE #38 ($15/13 issues from PO Box 6531, Stn. A, Toronto, ONT M5W 1X4, CANADA): A networking zine for pagans who are also into various social justice causes. They make contacts with such groups as the Greens and Earth First! in the hope of helping everyone to a better earth. Helping Haitians has been a priority, but has been made more difficult by recent turmoil there. (S-8)

★★★★★

PAGES #1 ($3 from Second Cycle Press, 205 - 1330 Harwood St., Vancouver, BC V6E 1S8, CANADA): A new literary magazine that starts off with a band. The entire first issue is devoted to "The Knightly News: the Collected Stories of Salvatore St. George", a collection by the wondrously funny and bizarre Al Manachino. St. George is a knight-errant who would rather hunt mushrooms than foes, but still finds himself involved with Giant Pizzas, beds that fight back when you try to sleep in them, vampires and, yes, even mushrooms. Hilarious stuff. (HL-72r)

★★★★★

PAPERBACK PARADE #8-10 ($3 from Gryphon Publications, PO Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228-0209): A digest for collectors of classic paperbacks. They feature nice pics of sleazy covers as well as a good deal of written coverage. Highlights of #8 include a look at the typos and omissions in Bantam's Doc Savage reprints and some reflections from a mail-order bookseller. #10 is a special issue focused on the works of Edgar Rice Burroughs. (D-52r)

★★★★★

THE PAPER BAG Vol. 1 #1 ($2.50 from Deborah or Michael Brownstein, 1839 W. Touhy, Chicago, IL 60626): A new litmag composed of very short stories, a bit of art, and poetry, There aren't a lot of gutgrabbers here (excepting perhaps Jeanne Townes' "Words of Wisdom...Passed On") but there's a sort of quiet competence about most of the work. The verdict: wait and see. (D-20t)

★★★★★

PALLAS SOCIETY NEWS Vol. 3 #3 ($8.50/4 issues from PO Box 18211, Encino, CA 91316): An eclectic pagan journal that brings together a lot of stuff four times a year. Themes, both accidental and deliberate, seem to run through their issues. This time cats and coming out are prominent. There are also articles about various aspects of the Goddess, thoughts on networking & places to connect, and reviews of other periodicals. (HL-64)

★★★★★

PARANOIS FREE PRESS #6 ($1 (?) from Von K. Lechner, 115 Coolidge Ave., Collingswood, NJ 08108): This is "the drug issue" of this personalzine, centered around that demon weed, marijuana. Von leads off with a reprint from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD way back when they were outlawing it, talks about some of his own experiences (including a ridiculous drug bust) and reprints other dope-related material. The whole ends up being a pretty reasonable look at something most people can't deal reasonably with. (S-8)

★★★★★

THE PATH Vol. 2 #5-6 ($15/yr from PO Box 486, New Hyde Park, NY 11040): This pagan journal has been growing in size lately, as Brother Shadow gets more writers and stops doing the whole thing himself. They're involved in various things including mind-reading, herbalism, and designing a new faith from the ground up. Also reviews new books from Llewellyn and other publishers. (S-10)

★★★★★

PATRICK RABBIT #1 ($2 from Fragments West, 2705 E. 7th St., Long Beach, CA 90804): A new indie comic that tackles the publishing giants head-on in the first story. Indeed, Patrick even meets the Publishing Giant in a flashback as he's encouraging some young cartoonist to get started. There's a good deal of silliness here, as well as a socially-responsible message and news on Cartoonists Across America, a group fighting illiteracy, painting dinosaur murals, and generally having a good time. (S-32)

★★★★★

PAVEMENT OF SURFACE Vol. 1 #1 ($1.25 from Deke Nihilson, PO Box 32886, Kansas City, MO 64111): A very personal journal of revolution. Deke seems to be looking for an alternative to the system, as well as proof that the system is bad, but he's not quite to either place yet. So this is a batch of collages, found texts (some from the police), mystical poetic writings, and challenges to apathy. (S-24)

★★★★★

PEACE ACTIVIST REVIEW Mar./Apr.-Sept./Oct. 1988 (SASE for sample from Charles Kraybill, 406 5th St. SE, Washington, DC 20003): "The independent analysis of the U.S. peace and justice movement", this newsletter treats that movement on a different level than most of what I review. Rather than grassroots activism, they follow the hardcore of professional peaceniks and the complex network of organizations, foundations, and PACs that support them. Lots of interesting figures on finances as well as personnel gossip[here, though the explanations are a bit slim for the outsider. (S-8t)

★★★★★

PEACEWORK #181-183 ($8/yr from AFSC, 2161 Massachussetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140): The American Friends Service Committee continues to present the best overview of various socially-conscious struggles around. Central America, stopping war toys, South Africa, the Student Action Network, protests directly against militarism — all are included. #183 leads off with "Twenty Questions for the Time Ahead", where 20 activists &

thinkers try to figure out what the deep questions are for the social justice movement in this country. (S-16r)

★★★★★

PENGUIN RETROSPECTIVE ($1.25 from Bruce Chrislip, 8057 13th NW, Seattle, WA 98117): A reprint with additions of a classic minicomic called **PENGUINS IN BONDAGE**. Apparently the original was a result of the penguin mania of a few years back, from people who don't like aquatic birds. Rather a bit gross, actually. (D-12)

★★★★★

PETA NEWS Vol. 3 #5 (Donation from PO Box 42516, Washington, DC 20015): The newsletter of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, a group doing their best to stop cruelty by any means available. Lately a bunch of beavers vanished from a fur farm — and, on the other hand, the government got 50,000 letters in support of making the chimpanzee an endangered species. The NEWS provides leads and ideas on cruelty-free food, cosmetics, clothes and more. (S-20t)

★★★★★

PETE PATTERSON'S SEVEN DEADLY SINS (75¢ from Wayne Honath, 332 Atlanta Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15228-1125): A minicomic featuring, yes, the seven deadly sins. Wayne has managed to work up a little vignette of Pete and his other character Howie watching TV for an evening that manages to include them all. A handy reference for the trivia buff. (M-8)

★★★★★

PHILLY ZINE #7 ($1 from Sean Gustilo, 101 Princeton Rd., Glassboro, NJ 08028) Well, Jesse Townley has gone off to college, so now Sean is going to try keeping this record of the Philly punk scene alive. There's a lot packed in this issue: major interviews with Deadspot and Warped, poetry and short stories, and a pile of record and show reviews. Also lots of authentic punk layout and art crammed in the corners. The local focus helps to keep it all anchored. (S-32)

★★★★★

PHLOGISTON #17-18 ($2.50 from Graham Collins, Physics Dept., Suny @ Stony Brook, NY 11794-3800): Actually, this sfanzine is edited and published by Alex Heatley over in Aotearoa (aka New Zealand), but Graham acts as his US agent. The tone is pretty serious for the SF crowd; nanotechnology and the values of mutli-volume novels get discussed in these two issues. Alex also writes of his various con-visiting activities and publishes Graham's pun-filled columns plus letters and other whatnot. Well-done though a bit stodgy in feel. (A4-22t)

★★★★★

THE PHOENIX'S NEW PAPER Vol. 1 #5-16 ($1 (?) from 131 Washington St., Providence, RI 02903): "Rhode Island's Weekly" is now owned by that other alternative paper in Boston, and it's developing an annoying "we're all lefties but don't take it seriously" attitude that bodes ill. Intriguing stories like the one on a midwife license revocation in #5 still sneak through, and the comics remain a high point. #11 has a good look at the people in Operation Rescue, balanced by some recollections of what illegal abortions used to be like. #13 has a special music supplement with extensive RI band listings, while #15 includes a paean to surprise-hit copshow *Wiseguy*. (T-56t)

★★★★★

PHOTOSTATIC #33 ($8/yr from 911 N. Dodge St., Iowa City, IA 52245): A journal for art in which mechanical production is involved; xerographic works are most prominent, but radio, video and other media are not neglected. Carefully chosen artistic images rub metaphorical elbows with criticism and theory, all tailored to the underground network. A delight, and an important reference source. (HL-48t)

★★★★★

THE PINK PAPER #46 (£15/26 weeks from 42 Colebrooke Row, London N1 8AF, ENGLAND): That's the overseas (i.e., here) rate for this paper, "Britain's only national newspaper for lesbians & gay men". It's apparent that there are some different concerns across the Atlantic; in particular, repression via laws is a distinct possibility in Britain these days. Besides news of the ongoing legal struggles, they print much cultural stuff, and a bit of political news. (T-20t)

★★★★★

PLAIN BROWN WRAPPER #3 ($4 from Richard Freeman, 130 W. Limestone, Yellow Springs, OH 45387): A thick looseleaf sheaf of miscellaneous writing. This includes diary entries from Richard, poetry and short stories from a bunch of other folks, wrestling reports, a serialized novel, and collages of the news that masquerade as "Snydergrams". It's a wild mix of stuff, selected as much for its lack of tradition as anything else. (S-100)

★★★★★

PLAIN BROWN WRAPPER #244-246 ($1 from Dorothy, 9405 Nies Dr., Waterford, PA 16441): This freeform collection of art has recently changed hands because the Erie Catholic Diocese, employers of former editor Jude, told her that she had to quit her job or quit publishing, since they found the freethought and creativity here offensive. Fortunately Dorothy was able to step in and keep the reviews, stories, comics and poetry flowing. Frankly I think you should all buy copies just to stand up for their right to publish. (S-32)

★★★★★

THE PLEASURE THAT ABIDETH FOR A MOMENT Fall 1988 ($1 (?) from Chrlene X. Paul, 11940 Woodbridge, N. Hollywood, CA 91604): A mix of left/liberal opinion, music (Sylvia Juncosa interview), book reviews, psychdelic art, and collage, among other things. I really got a kick out of the "Marcia Brady Drops Acid" drawings and the anti-nuke-testing poster. There are also supermarket tabloid pieces reprinted for their amusement values and other random things. (S-30)

★★★★★

THE PLOWSHARES NEWSLETTER Vol. 5 #4 (Donation from PO Box 585, Orlando, FL 32802): A support and publicity for those involved in Plowshares actions — nonviolent direct action against the military. There are a lot more folks doing this than the major news media might lead you to believe. Each issue reports on new actions, legal happenings, and presents bits of faith-based argument to justify such actions. (T-8)

★★★★★

"PML" (50¢ from 1250 Tutwiler #1, Memphis, tn 38107-4821): A collection of clippings from supermarket tabloids together with a few spots of poetry. Most of the latter is pretty confused or confusing, though the general theme is once again the nastiness of life and love in general. Creative but not straightforward. (D-24)

★★★★★

POGUE MAHONE 7 (IRC's from Lot Duran No. 3, Pouydesseaux, 40120 Roquefort, FRANCE): A mail-art periodical. #7 is a theme issue titled "Self-portraits", and featuring artist's own conceptions of themselves. These range from relatively straightforward drawings to altered photographs to scrawls, perhaps revealing something of personality and diversity. (D-18)

★★★★★

PORTENTS #6 ($3.50 from Deb Rasmussen, 12 Fir Pl., Hazlet, NJ 07730): A zine of short horror fiction. Lately they've branched out to include some reviews, an interview, and other features, but the core is still the fiction, from half a page to several long. Jeremy Forsyth's "The Cure" is a neat self-referential bloodfest, and Craig Strickland's "Star Appeal" is also quite shuddery. (D-60t)

★★★★★

POSSESSED #2 (2 hours wages or $15/yr from PO Box 20545, Seattle, WA 98102): Zine from a bunch of Seattle-area anarchist activists. They're struggling with the problems of "Why publish?" in a big way, trying to move beyond the printed word and actually influence society. Meanwhile, there are bits of anarchist culture here, meanderings about rights and their possible existence, an Israeli-Palestinian peace treaty, and actions for the local homeless. (S-32t)

★★★★★

POUNDING TALES #5 ($10/4 issues from PO Box 14, Redfern 2016, NSW, AUSTRALIA): A definitely bizarre specimen of underground comic. The stories come and go and mutate into one another without always coming to a conclusion, and the art is strange and detailed enough to waste many a stoned hour on. I got a real kick out of the "Mupersan" comic in this issue, a fitting end to a childhood superhero. Also includes an insert of yet more comics in digest format including a punk fairy tale. (S-48)

★★★★★

THE PRAGMATIST Vol. 6 #3 ($10/6 issues from PO Box 392, Forest Grove, PA 18922): A libertarian newsletter that not only points to the well-known problems of government regulation and taxation but tries to suggest solutions. This issue continues their argument for wide legalization of drugs by looking at common objetions to this issue, considers a scheme for lowering pollution by taxing polluters, and claims we'd all be better off with freer trade. (S-16t)

★★★★★

THE PRAIRIE RAMBLER #135-137 ($1.23 from PO Box 505, Claremont, CA 91711-0505): A collection of wit, wisdom, aphorisms and whatnot, presided over by a somewhat displaced Midwesterner. You can find everyone from Emma Goldman to Henry Kissinger quoted here; the only criterion for inclusion seems to be that the words be thought-provoking. Editor Jerry B. has been using his last page to editorialize about what he's doing lately, lending a more intimate touch to these pages. (S-8)

★★★★★

PRINTER'S INK Vol. 4 #3 (On request from Thomson-SHore, PO Box 305, Dexter, MI 48130-0305): The quarterly newsletter of one of the larger short-run book printers in the country. While they intend this primarily as an advertising venture, it's a good way to learn some of the basics of preparing and pricing small books. (S-4t)

★★★★★

THE PROGRESSIVE PRAGMATIST Vol. III #5-6 ($11/6 issues from Nicholas J. Nigro, Jr., 3214 Tibbett Ave., Bronx, NY 10463): A somewhat jaundiced look at the American political scene. #5 came out just before the elections, and as a result has a large proportion of humorous attacks on Bush (though Dukakis comes in for a jab or two as well). #6 evaluates the election process in retrospect and looks forward to the next four years and what it might bring to Bush and the rest of us. (S-16)

★★★★★

PROJECT X #6 ($7.95/yr from 330 E. 38th St. #25H, New York, NY 10016): A nightclub-based zine that unabashedly promises to let you read "all about trendy people, trendy places, and trendy things to do!" Lots of pictures from various nightclubds, gossip about which hunks are the hunkiest, make-up advice for drag queens, and top records from local DJs grace these pages. (S-32)

★★★★★

THE PROTECTORS Part 1 ($1 (?) from Jeff Smith, 2106 Tradewind Dr. #182, Mesquite, TX 75150): The first installment of a three-part comic. The protectors are some of the new breed of superheroes, with human failings and feelings as well as extraordinary powers. This issue is devoted mostly to setting the background, introducing the top villain as well as the heroes. (S-20)

★★★★★

P.S. Vol. X #1 ($15/yr from PO Box 175, Wynantskill, NY 12198): "A Quarterly Journal of Postal History", this one features a number of reproductions of historically interesting covers, but they go much further than that as well to incorporate scholarly articles. In this issue Diane DeBlois investigates the commercial agenting activities of postmasters (mainly in the 19th century), while Robert Dalton Harris considers the differential development of the telegraph and railroad systems of communications. (S-40t)

★★★★★

PSYCHOTRONIC VIDEO #1 ($3 from Rare Bird Video, 58 Wooster, New York, NY 10013): From the man who invented the word "psychotronic" comes this catalog of lowbrow culture. Besides the expected film reviews, he presents an interview with Clive Barker, a feature on Karen Black, and the story of Papa Oom Mow Mow. About the only disappointment is his guide to Ohio music trash which covers previous decades well but misses many of today's exciting garage bands in the area. (S-48t)

★★★★★

THE PUNCHLINE #2 ($1.50 from PO Box 11458, San Francisco, CA 94101): A collection of large pieces from feisty graphic artist John Yates, and including pieces by Winston Smith, Jello Biafra, and others. This is raw-edged political protest, featuring images od death and destruction as a plea for change. There are also a couple of articles on things like the Yuppification of the 80's and Uncle Sam's medical experiments on unknowing guinea pigs. Powerful stuff that might even provoke a few thoughts if it were posted widely. (T-32tb)

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The executive summary of a private network of researchers dedicated to identifying the objective nature of the "ruling class/conspiracy."

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★★★★★

PUNCTURE #16 ($2.25 from 1556 Filbert St. #3, San Francisco, CA 94123): Slick cover, nice layout, intelligent articles, reviews just the right lenght — what more could you ask in coverage of new music? **PUNCTURE** has it all, and it's a great package. Just a few of the features in #16: Michelle Shocked and Billy Bragg, Vomit Launc, Pere Ubu, reporting from a benefit for Subterranean Records and some Performance Videos, and Einsturzende Neubauten. There's also a good amount of attention to women in the music business, though they're not too obtrusive about this. (S-64t)

★★★★★

PWA COALITION NEWSLINE #38-39 ($20/yr [Free to PWA's/PWArc's] from 263A W. 19th St. #125, New York, NY 10011): A clearing house for information on AIDS, by and for those with AIDS or AIDS Related Conditions. It's a mix of medical news (from the mainstream to the fringes), activism, social and community support, and just plain reflection about life in the face of this disease. #39 has a good deal on AIDS support for prison inmates, including contact info for a new advocacy group. (S-72t)

★★★★★

PWALIVE Vol. 1 #6-Vol. 2 #1 ($5/yr from 2025 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55404): A newsletter "by, for and about persons affected by AIDS". In #6, Perry Tilleraas proposes a time of rethinking and revitalizing for this community in the Minneapolis area, based on what's worked so far to survive. Every issue includes a calendar and listing of community services and resources. (S-16t)

★★★★★

PYRAMID RESEARCH CENTER NEWSLETTER Vol. 2 #3-4 ($12/6 issues from PO Box 5271, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310): These people have a plan, which is to train up to their full potential (via the "Impossible Human" course) and then move to the Peruvian jungle to do wonderful things. Meanwhile, they write short bits about vortexes, ELF waves, training your sense of hearing, the importance of new experiences, Kinesiology, and other things. A mix of carefully horded facts and wild fantasies and misunderstandings. (S-8t)

★★★★★

QUAKER SERVICE BULLETIN #161 (Donation from AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102): This small paper describes the activities being pursued by the American Friends Service Committee on behalf of social justice and positive change around the world. Fighting pesticide poisoning in Nicaragua, opening up grassroots East-West dialogues, and feeding starving people are a few of their many concerns. (T-8t)

★★★★★

QUIMBY Fall 1988/Winter 1989 ($5 from PO Box 281, Astor Stn., Boston, MA 02123): A special double erotica issue of this Boston-area arts magazine. It's all handwritten, apparently for that personal feel, and peppered with images of sex in a variety of media, including a new spread by Mike Manning, originator of SHUNGA. There's also the inserted **QUIMBY SONIX**, where even the interviews (especially the one of Rita & Lolita Flange) have sexual overtones along with the music, and **QUIMBY COMIX**. Lots here to wade through and get hot over. (S-72)

★★★★★

THE RADIOACTIVIST Summer 1988 ($6/yr from Clamshell alliance, PO Box 734, Concord, NH 03301): Many would consider the Clamshells to be the founders of the anti-nuclear movement, and they're still at it, even though the Seabrook nuke plant continues to grind ahead. This paper is part outreach and part outrage, doing its best to get out the facts about the safety problems with nuclear power and the consequences of relying on it. (T-8)

★★★★★

RADIO VOID #6 (Free, but donations don't hurt, from PO Box 5983, 53 Weybosset St., Providence, RI 02903): A rather slim issue of this literary tabloid, as they're regrouping for a switch to magazine format. Mostly this is poetry from a handful of folks, including some strong work from Linda Collette who writes about death in a very stark but compelling way. (T-4t)

★★★★★

RAGTIME #10 ($5/5 issues from Charles Clark, PO Box 15674, Minneapolis, MN 55415): A zine for the Christian music fan. Though Charles sticks fairly closely to this one area he knows what he's about and does a good job of writing in-depth reviews. #10 contains a sane look at LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST, an interview with Charlie Peacock, and a whole pile of reviews, from demo tapes to U2's latest album. (D-18t)

★★★★★

RAIL TRAVEL NEWS Vol. 18 #21 ($24/yr from Message Media, PO Box 9007, Berkeley, CA 94709): A little magazine for railroad buffs. Most of its contents are rather uninteresting to outsiders — reports on new routings, trains being repaired, railroad management problems and so on. But #21 also has an interesting narrative from Paul Rayton about a fun-filled Amtrak trip. (D-24t)

★★★★★

RAINBOW BRIDGE Fall 1988 ($5/yr from PO Box 42755, Tucson, AZ 85733): A New Age periodical par excellence. The writers talk about obscure connections between rainbows, the Book of Revelations, prophecy and peace and write of meeting Jesus Christ panhandling for spare change. There's a pattern here but I'm not sure what it is — or why. (S-4)

★★★★★

RANDOM WRITINGS #22-23 ($1 cash or $2 check/MO from Jim stumm, PO Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): Just what the title says, things that Jim writes that don't go elsewhere. In #22 he continues a debate with Bob Black over property ownership and hunter gatherers, and speculates on the costs of privatizing the postal system. #23 ranges from Occam's Razor to the Libertarian Party vote totals for the year. (S-5r)

★★★★★

RATBEAT #5 ($3 (?) from PO Box 361, 00121 Helsinki, FINLAND): It would be good to send some IRCs too in case my guess is wrong; they say they take dollars but don't say how many. This is an ambitious international music tabloid, with coverage spanning the globe: US, Europe, Australian, and lots of Finnish. Reviews, interviews, Del-Lords, Sydney scene report, Walkingseeds, and the Czechoslovakian underground are among the delights in this issue. (T-28t)

★★★★★

THE RAT RACE RECORD Vol. 1 #2-3 ($1 from Conny Jasper, PO Box 1611, Union, NJ 07083): A mix of about half ecology and environmentalism, and half new music coverage, with little overlap between the two. To lead off #2 there's news on food irradiation and the ins and outs of government testing on animals. To follow up, we get Sun City Girls, Adrenalin OD, and the Zendik Farm Eklectrix Orgasta. #3 has an interview with Dave Foreman, an introduction to the Tarot, and a new anti-arthritis diet. What a mix! (S-20)

★★★★★

READ ME Vol. 1 #3 ($1.50 from 1118 Hoyt Ave., Everett, WA 98201): Calling this "literary" is almost too highfalutin', so call it "stories" instead — they do. The folks here write about picking up hitchhikers in the snow, having pet ducks, riding a racing motorcycle, or the endangered asterisk, instead of trying to be arty and obscure. There's also poetry, non-fiction, short reviews, and humor, as well as a public service announcement or two. (T-24t)

★★★★★

REAL GOODS NEWS Fall/Christmas 1988 ($1 or so from 3041 Guidiville Rd., Ukiah, CA 95482): These people have a huge line of alternative energy goods (and associated things like composting toilets) for sale. Just because you've switched to PV power doesn't mean you have to give up high tech: there are 12-volt TVs, VCRs, chainsaws, microwave ovens, blenders, and much more for sale here. They're also downright friendly folks and the letters from customers are a treat. (S-64t)

★★★★★

THE REALIST #108 ($2 from PO Box 1230, Venice, CA 90294): A journal of satire and political opinion from a bunch of folks who thing that we;re having an extremely funny trip down the tubes in this country. In this issue, Robert Anton Wilson muses darkly about the recent election, somebody does a hatchet job on Albert Goldman, and condom-mania gets a brief glance. (S-8t)

★★★★★

REALISTIC LIVING #9 ($3 from PO Box 140826, Dallas, TX 75214): Subtitled "A Journal on Ethics and Religion", this is Joyce and Gene Marshall's vehicle for bringing a radical Christianity to bear on some of the social problems today. They're connected in various ways with the bioregional and other newfangled movements for social and ecological justice, but bring in insights that few others do. Gene's thoughts on fall and redemption in this issue are worth reading. (S-16r)

★★★★★

REALITY HACKERS #6 ($3.95 from PO Box 40271, Berkeley, CA 94704): It would be easy to be cynical about this collection of gung-ho articles on new mind machines, nutrition advances, psychdelia, quantum physics, and other techno-New-Age concerns. But they're trying as best they can to find the wave of the future and ride it into the next century. #6 is a special music issue, in which they talk to folks like Sun Ra, Adrian Belew, and Blue Oyster Cult to explore the meanings and madness of new musical paradigms. Slick and yuppified, so beware. (S-96t)

★★★★★

REALITY NOW #8 ($2 from PO Box 6326, Stn. A, Toronto, ONT M5W 1P7, CANADA): After a long pause this ambitious anarchist zine is back with a new look. The topics are still loosely organized around the idea of taking actionr ather than theorizing: the Anarchist Black Cross, security and demonstrations, ecological activism, and so on. There are a lot of alternatives to choose from here, and a tone that ranges from hope to rage. (S-83t)

★★★★★

REAL JAM (75¢ from Bruce Chrislip, 8057 13th NW, Seattle, WA 98117): A comics jam featuring 24 artists and a plotline that, as is typical for these things, wanders all over the place. Various folks contribute cruise missiles, walking hot dogs, apocalypses, and phone booths. Comes with minibios of the artists involved. (S-9)

★★★★★

REAR GARDE #26-29 ($2 from PO Box 1412, Stn. H, Montreal, Que. H3G 2M4, CANADA): The Canadian content tabloid of the music world. Not that they cover only Canadian acts, but the focus is on the Montreal scene, so they mostly talk to bands in or passig through the area. #26 has Alex Chilton, Razorbacks, and AOD; #27, Sugar Cubes, Dag Nasty, and The Asexuals, to name just a few. #29 takes a quickie look at the Boston music scene thanks to a vacation visit. Lots of photos, nice layout, reviews, and local club news round out the package. (T-24t)

★★★★★

REASON & REVELATION Vol. VIII #1-7 ($3/yr from Apologetics Press, Inc., 230 Landmark Dr., Montgomery, AL 36117-2752): "A Monthly Journal of Christian Evidences", this one ranges quite widely in its topics. #2-5 contain a special lengthy look at evolution and the laws of thermodynamics which is not as one-sided as one might fear. Other topics include God's providence and the principles of interpreting prophecy. (S-6t)

★★★★★

RELIGION WATCH Vol. 4 #1-3 ($15/11 issues from PO Box 652, North Bellmore, NY 11710): A roundup of news on religions digested from what seem to be hundreds of sources. Editor Rich Cimino does a mix of topics (like "Ecology and the Religious Divide" in #1) and news stories, always seeking trends in spirituality. #2 takes a look at the New Age appropriation of Native American religion and supplies an index for the past two years' issues. #3 looks back ont he major religious trends in 1988. (S-8)

★★★★★

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ALERT Vol. IV #11-12 ($10/yr from 325 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20003): A look at the interface between religion and government, from the religious point of view. They give wide coverage to many sorts of stories: deprogrammer trials, tax suits, Border Patrol arrests during mass, and more. Funded at least in part by the Unification Church, but pretty ecumenical in its coverage. (T-12t)

★★★★★

THE REPEAL OF DECORUM Vol. 3 #3 (On request from WRPI, 1 WRPI Plaza, Troy, NY 12180): The program guide and then some of the FM station at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. In addition to schedules and the like, this issue contains an interview with Bobby Previte, some rudimentary thoughts on cassette culture, and an analysis of the acoustics of the Troy Music Hall. (S-36t)

★★★★★

RESONANCE #12-13 ($1.50 from Judy Wall, PO Box 64, Sumterville, FL 33585): A Mensa Special Interest Group newsletter dealing with Bioelectromagnetics: the effects of electrical and magnetic fields on living organisms. All of #12 is filled with a single article by Dr. John Zimmerman, titled "Laying On Of Hands Healing and Therapeutic Touch: A Testable Theory". #13 has quite a variety of articles, many with documentation, on everything from EMP weapons to electrical stimulation healing of horses. (D-32r)

★★★★★

RILEY COUNTRY (1 stamp from William Dockery, 3226A River Ave., Columbus, GA 31904): A poorly-drawn and poorly-copied minicomic which the publisher alleges to be a promo for Paul Wilson's upcoming cassete. If it's as bad as the parts of this that I can make out, about sodomy and throwing up in the bathroom, I'll not be holding my breath for it. (M-8)

★★★★★

ROAD TO PEACE Vol. XI #4 ($15/yr from MCASF, PO Box 14461, Minneapolis, MN 55414): The newsletter of the Minnesota Council of American-Soviet Friendship. This is a group trying to build relatively grassroots links with the people of the USSR through things like joint marches and sister city programs. They seem quite optimistic about what they're doing, and have a lot to report on. (S-16t)

★★★★★

ROBZINE #9 ($1.75 from 340 Sunnyside Ave., Toronto, ONT M6R 2R6): Rob has found a look all his own for this skatezine, and a very nice look it is. Attention to graphics and clear photos makes this much easier and more fun to read than some other cruddy productions. There's only skating and life here, no particular music emphasis — but you never know what's to come. (D-36)

★★★★★

THE ROCKET Dec. 1988 ($12/yr from 2028 Fifth Ave., Seattle, WA 98121): Tabloid coverage of Northwest music. Besides the usual pile of reviews audio and video (including Joe Bob Briggs). this issue has a pullout guide to Northwest music, with contact info for hundreds of bands. (Interested in someone who plays "Stone Age gospel"? They're in here). Cassette culture also comes in for examination thanks to the knowledgeable Robin James. (T-52t)

★★★★★

ROLLIN UNDER #16 (Lots of IRCs from POB 17590, 540 09 Thessaloniki, GREECE): Lots of music coverage in an alphabet that most of us can't read. There seem to be a lot of US folks here: Lydia Lunch, Butthole Surfers, Lazy Cowgirls, Ut, Swans, Pussy Galore, and more, plus some groups that I don't recognize. There's also some gory film reviews and a few comics. (S-92)

★★★★★

THE ROOSEVELT A-WORD #5-7 ($1 or so from Seth Tisue, 215 S. Prospect, Wheaton, IL 60187-5905): Seth is one of the producers of this high school independent paper, and he can probably scrape up a copy if you're generous. Much of this is pretty focused for the local audience, but there are fun things like a concrete poem from gym class and a vomit find-a-word that could entertain more widely. Besides, efforts like this *deserve* your support. #7 was long-delayed due to a run-in with the authorities over the word "fuck." (S-4r)

★★★★★

RURAL NETWORK ADVOCATE #59-61 ($10/yr from Route 2, Box 150, Gays Mills, WI 54631): A meeting place for singles on their way back to the land. The bulk of this is essays from members, on things like chainsaw maintenance, freezing food, travel, or the economics of BTTL. For an additional $20 you can become a full member and be put in touch with like-minded singles. #61 includes some brief notes on the Network and Lois Kohles who keeps it running. (S-8)

S is for... SAILORS
DT

★★★★★

SACRATOMATO #2 (50¢ from Lynn Hansen, 747J Barcelona Ct., Birmingham, AL 35209): A minicomic featuring pages from a batch of different artists. Most have an animal or vegetable theme, though I laughed most at Wayne Honath's "Where Is Dey Now? The Funny-Face Gang" of washed up fruit actors. (M-8)

★★★★★

SACRED EARTH NEWS Nov. 1988 (Donation from XAT Medicine Society, 1404 Gale Ln., Nashville, TN 37212): This Native American journal, formerly titled **INNER QUEST**, continues to focus on spirituality in all its manifestations. They reprint news from all over of people who are trying to reclaim the old ways or develop new ones, and act as a linchpin in this network. (T-16t)

★★★★★

SADIE MAE GLUTZ #2 ("SASE, trade, loc, or whim" from Barnaby Rapoport, PO Box 565, Storrs, CT 06268): An iconoclasic zine of science fiction criticism, in the vein of **CHEAP TRUTH** and **ASTRAL AVENUE**, to which it will undoubtedly be compared for some issues to come. This time around Barnaby examines the ideology of maturity and its marginalizing effect on the field. (S-6)

★★★★★

THE SAGA OF HAPPY NED ($1.75 from Jabberwocky Graphix, PO Box 166255, Irving, TX 75016): Ned is a street preacher, and with his rabbit Spot, he tries to save the ungodly. Unfortunately for the ungodly in this comic, when he can't save them, he blows them away. Colin Upton has written and drawn a bizarre tale of faith through superior firepower that is simultaneously funny and frightening. (M-48p)

★★★★★

SALVAGE #1 (3 25¢ stamps from Manter & Co., 3833 Concord Bridge Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23452): A new comic apparently drawn on a computer system. The introductory issue introduces buxom private investigator Maggie McGuire and a so-far unidentified ghost who wants her help. Strange stuff. (D-8)

★★★★★

SAMIZDAT #1 (£12/yr from 18 Victoria Park Square, London E2 9PF, ENGLAND): Add something extra on for post to the States, of course. This is a new broadly leftist journal of opposition, devoted to trying to come up with policies the people can rally round to throw Thatcher and her cronies out of office. Folks here range from the Labour Party to the Communist Party to the SDP, but all agree on throwing the bastards out. If you can learn a whole new political vocabulary, or already know modern English history, this could be fascinating. (A4-24t)

★★★★★

SANITY #11 (£10.50/yr from CND Publications Ltd., 22-24 Underwood St., London N1 7JG, ENGLAND): No information on overseas subs is given, so perhaps you should write. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is a few decades old now and still fighting for social justice. Besides the obvious nuke stuff, they cover the Kurds and the Palestinians, the rightward swing of Britain, and more. Includes a 12-page supplement, **CAMPAIGN**, which discusses current and future protest actions. (A4-42t)

★★★★★

THE SANTA CRUZ COMIC NEWS #103 ($15/24 issues from PO Box 8543, Santa Cruz, CC 95061): Pretty heavy stuff, since most of these comics are political cartoons. They're arranged to form coherent stories about things like the recent elections, and lightened up by The Far Side and Calvin & Hobbes. There's also an interview with the Christic Institute's Daniel Sheehan (in non-comic form) for you conspiracy types. (T-52)

★★★★★

SATURDAY MORNING EXPRESS Vol. 2 #5 ($1 & 4 25¢ stamps/4 issues from Kevin Collier, 18129 136th Ave., Nunica, MI 49448): A biweekly look at cartoons and other animation on TV. #5 includes news on the legal fight surrounding commercials in children's TV, the cancellation of the new Beanie & Cecil show, and several minor items. (S-2t)

★★★★★

THE SCAVENGERS DAUGHTER #5-6 (50¢ (?) from The Poison Pen, PO Box 2840, North Babylon, NY 11703): A zine without socially-redeeming value. The "Scavengers Daughter" is an old english torture device, and these clowns seem to find that humorous. They push a philsophy apparently derived from Manson, Dirty Harry and maybe Nietzsche, and call the readers lots of names. The fascination escapes me. (S-8)

★★★★★

SCAVENGER'S NEWSLETTER #56-58 ($1 from Janet Fox, 519 Ellinwood, Osage City, KS 66523-1329): This guide to markets for the SF/fantasy/horror writer seems to be exploding lately, in part because Janet is now mailing flyers from other folks as a part of it. But there are also more listings and reviews than ever, and a perky letter column. This is rapidly developing into a central clearing house of ideas on how to run the small press in its area of expertise. (D-28r)

★★★★★

SCHISM #21 (25¢ stamp from Janet Janet, 135 Cole St., San Francisco, CA 94117): This issue of this arty mini is titled "1968 1988", and features photos from the France '68 rioting, together with a caption in French. Somewhere between mail art and politics, each issue of **SCHISM** captures a single thought for further examination. (M-8)

★★★★★

SCHOLAR ALERT #8-14 ($15 *CASH* from The Justice Advocate, PO Box 3125, Denver, CO 80201): This particular series of legal information updates is now finished and available as one packet. The major concern here is whether the courts are playing fairly; the authors argue that in most cases the answer is "no", and suggest precedents to back up their case. The reasoning seems at times convoluted, but it all hangs together — though I sometimes wonder whether the courts will ever admit our legal system is in a terrible muddle. (S-4)

★★★★★

SCIENCE FICTION RANDOMLY #6 ($1.50 from PO Box 12705, Gainesville, FL 32604-0705): A science fiction zine that has a nice mix, from fiction to otherwise. In the former category, John Rosenman's "A Piece of My Mind" works pretty well in this issue, not telegraphing its ending too badly and requiring only a bit of suspension of disbelief. In the latter, there's Matt Mikas's "equibus" comic, bizarre as usual, and Hawk's ragging on the space shuttle. Lots more stuff here, including a couple of other stories and some con-related stuff. (S-32t)

★★★★★

SCIENTIA Vol. 3 #5-6 ($10/yr from Andrew P. Smith, 1535 10th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122): As the name might suggest, this one revolved around science, but is not completely captured by it. Andrew writes about new scientific developments but tends to focus on not-quite-central issues, like the possible scale fallacy of SETI or the potential for organisms to direct their own mutations in #5. He also uses ideas from sources like Ouspensky when appropriate — but is still firmly anchored in a rational, educated worldview. (S-8t)

★★★★★

SCORE REVIEW 9-11 ($1/4 issues from 491 Mandana Blvd. #3, Oakland, CA 94610): A broadside of poetry criticism. #9 is devoted to a review of Larry Eigner's book **FROM THE SUSTAINING AIR**, written by Jack Foley. It seems like a pretty reasonable review without too much poetic bafflegab. #14 has jwcurry onthe catalog **THE ALTERED PAGE** from a concrete and visual poetry exhibition. (S-2)

★★★★★

SCRAP #6 ($3 fromChris Winkler, PO Box 61564, Phoenix, AZ 85082): A spectacular collection of experimental art sandwiched in a hand-painted sandpaper cover. The theme is "Death and Dismemberment", and such luminaries as John Bennett, Miekal And, Jake Berry and Kare Eliot contribute some of their nastiest stuff. Chris is looking for contributions for future open-theme productions, both printed and audio; contact him for details and a catalog. (D-36)

★★★★★

SCUTTLEBUTT #1 (SASE (?) from 167 N. Dunlap St. #E, St. Paul, MN 55104): A mishmash single-sheet zine. The premiere issue includes Foucault-inspired thoughts on power, bad poetry, a review of ONE MILLION YEARS BC, a Georgie Bush comic, and various bits of filler. (L-2)

★★★★★

SEATTLE STAR #18 ($1 from Starhead Comix, PO Box 30044, Seattle, WA 98103): A good place to get acquainted with the up-and-coming underground comics artists, as well as some of the more established ones. SS features work from bunches of them each issue, displaying enough to tease you into buying more, or even full books reduced in size. #18 is a special Halloween ish, featuring the "ugly art" of follks like XNO, Bob X, Gaither and Sloane. (T-24t)

★★★★★

SECONDS Fall 1988 ($2 from PO Box 2553, Stuyvesant Stn., New York, NY 10009): This music zine is unusual in that it deliberately avoids becoming marginalized. That is, the concentration is on acts that actually have a following, instead of the latest critical darlings. It's all presented in a unique format of spacious interviews. Featured in this issue are Slayer, Schooly D, Pere Ubu, MOD, Ben Vaughan, and lots more. (T-32t)

★★★★★

THE SECOND STONE #1 ($12.60/6 issues from PO Box 8340, New Orleans, LA 70182): "The National Newspaper for Gay Christians" has started its numbering over again with this move up to a tabloid format. They take several approaches to their topic. The cover story concerns three young men who left the Lutheran ministry due to coming out. Inside there are corrections of misconceptions regarding the Biblical stand on homosexuality and thoughts on how to spread the gospel in the gay community. (T-12t)

★★★★★

THE SEDITIONIST #5 (50¢ from 203 Leslie St., Lansing, MI 48912): A zine from the Anarchist Labor League, a group arguing that something has to be done, that anarchists are in a good place to do some of it, and that we ought to stop squabbling and get on with life. They print news on local organizing and actions as well as articles from modern classic works of Bookchin, Dolgoff, and Thornley. A bit on the techie side but very readable. (S-24r)

★★★★★

SEEDS OF LIBERATION #2 (Free ["but a 25¢ stamp would be nice"] from 2005 Palo Verde #230, Long Beach, CA 90815): A small newsletter of Christian testimonials with a minor music focus, this time in a brief 77's/Mike Roe interview. There's also a short comic and a couple of columns to get us to accept Jesus as Lord. (D-8t)

★★★★★

SENIOR CITIZENS NEWS & VIEWS Vol. 3 #3 ($12/12 issues from PO Box 1253, Peoria, IL 61654): A monthly tabloid for senior citizens. It's focised on the mid-Illinois area but the columns would be of interest to those elsewhere. Besides features on what various seniors are doing, they feature a broad spectrum of news on health and financial issues, as well as notes on things to do. (T-20t)

★★★★★

SERENDIPITY #1 ($1.95 from Solarquest Publications, 4295 Silver Lake Rd., Pinson, AL 35126-3307): Premiere issue of a new zine for fans of SF, role-playing, and related topics. The major feature in #1 is an episode-by-episode rating of the new *Star Trek* shows. There's also a variety of short fiction and some nice full-color cover art. (D-32r)

★★★★★

S.E.T. FREE #26 (SASE from PO Box 1124, Albuquerque, NM 87103): Newsletter of the Society for the Eradication of Television, this is more of a resource than an in-depth work of scholarship. The members of S.E.T. swap stories on what the tube is doing to our view of the world as well as ideas on what to do without it. Various folks involved are compiling a directory and a book of testimonials now, so expansion may be in the making. (L-4)

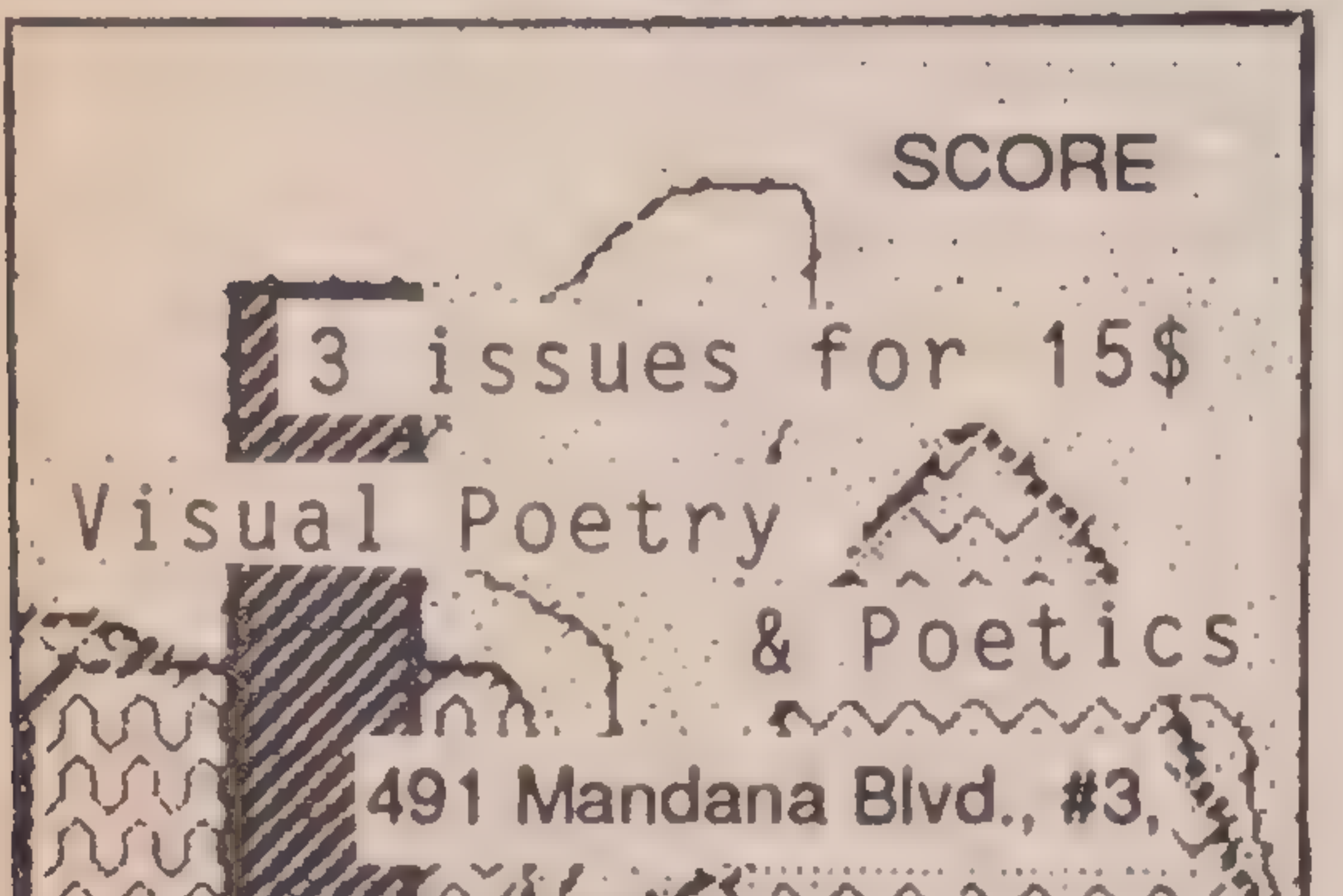
★★★★★

THE SF CONVENTION REGISTER Autumn 1988 ($3 from Erwin S. Strauss, PO Box 3433, Fairfax, VA 22038): A listing of conventions for the science fiction fan. Erwin gives detailed information about things like when, where, and how much, together with more detailed notes about guests of honor and policies when available. Hundreds of listings together with extensive cross-referencing. (S-18r)

★★★★★

SHADOWMAN ($1 from John Bergin, 4503 Washington St., Kansas City, MO 64111): Icky poetry and art in a spinoff from **BRAIN DEAD**. John has teamed up his stark and scary style with words from a few different sources to create tales of terror and even necrophilia. Certainly not for the kiddies. I love this artwork, though. (HL-24)

★★★★★



SHAKIN' STREET #2 (A$8.15 from Jim Wylie, PO Box 19, Enmore, NSW 2042, AUSTRALIA): Yeah, that's not cheap, but it includes air mail postage to the States. This is a real high-quality zine of rock music that concentrates on classic rock rather than punk or new wave or such stuff. This issue includes long interviews with Mitch Easter and Greg Sage (Wipers). There's also a whole set of short articles on British powerpop bands of the 70s and 80s: Interviews, Chicaynes, Chords, Donkeys, and lots more. Also record reviews and Australian rock coverage. Nice clean layout with nifty photos and tiny but legible print. (A4-52)

★★★★★

SHANGRI-LA #2 (75¢ from PO Box 12041, Seattle, WA 98102): A crazy stream-of-babble music-based zine that entertains while baffling. Two major articles in #2: one is a pretty straightforward Pere Ubu review, the other is some disorienting screed about the musical failures of the sixties...I think. (S-8r)

★★★★★

SHARK FETISH #2 (75¢ from PO Box 782, Venice, CA 90291): A collection of shark trivia, curious stories, poetry and art. There's an interesting clip-art acid nightmare in the centerspread, and a confusing excerpt from Ray Maloney's novel "The Cave". If you're into sharks or obscure, oblique creativity, this is a place to check out. (D-32r)

★★★★★

SHEER FILTH #2-4 ($2 from David Flint, 39 Holly Street, Offerton, Stockport, SK1 4DP, ENGLAND): An exploitation film zine that wallows in being pornographic, sexist, and downright disgusting. #2 commemorates Marilyn Monroe's death by reviewing a porno film featuring a lookalike. #4 takes a look at the bondage photos of Irving Klaw. All of these feature lots of movie reviews and pics. Somewhat marred by lack of margins and poor printing, but still worth getting for dedicated sleazehounds. (A5-20r)

★★★★★

SHEET METAL #4 ($2.50 from 2235 France Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55416): Devoted to heavy metal, this one is growing fast. The heart ofit is interviews, with a good lineup in #4: Judas Priest, King Diamond, Britny Fox, Queensryche and Jethro Tull, to name the best known. There's lots of photos, record reviews, and a special "Nubiles" page where editor Jake Wisely reviews demo tapes. (S-30t)

★★★★★

SHIFT #4 ($6.50 from San Francisco Artspace, 1286 Folsom St., San Francisco, CA 94103): An extremely ritzy (assembling the multi-material covers here must have been a tedious project) yet serious zine from the professional art world. This issue opens with an essay by Ingrid Sischy on the image of art and artists in contemporary society, told in a whirlwind of anecdotes. Then there are conversations with various artists: the photographing Starn Twins, the somewhat iconoclastic Ranier Fetting, and more. Finally, there's a review section, looking at current exhibitions and installations. I don't pretend to have the skill to know how appropriate the critiques here are; but the magazine does have a solid, professional feel to it that bodes well, and a wonderful visual design to entertain the rest of us. (S-48t)

★★★★★

THE SHOCK REVIEW #6 ($4/yr from Tom Stockman, 1435 Sproule St., St. Louis, MO 63139): This gorehound's zine stands out thanks to Tom's berserk writing and Paul Cunard's original illustrations. #6 gives high marks to Joe Christ's *Communion in Room 410*, snarks at Freddie, and gives us comparative ratings of the latest from Eastwood, Norris, and Bronson. (S-8r)

★★★★★

SHORT FUSE #35-36 ($1 from Holden, PO Box 90436, Santa Brabara, CA 93190): A collection of poetry, short stories, aphorisms and art contributed by the readers. Holden disposes of white space by careful layout, enabling works to draw new meanings from others sharing their pages. More often sketchy than not, this is as far from stodgy as can be imagined. (S-26)

★★★★★

SHOW ME FREEDOM Vol. 3 #4-5 ($1 (?) from Missouri Libertarian Party, PO Box 3231, St. Louis, MO 63130): Newsletter of the Missouri Libertarians. #4 is mostly filled with pre-election stuff, even though I didn't get my copy until long after. In addition to platforms and exhortations to vote, there's an analysis of the Bush and Dukakis economic advisors and some editorializing on things like homelessness. #5 reports mainly on election results and their implications, along with another piece on pulling kids out of the public schools. (S-10t)

★★★★★

SHRED OF DIGNITY #C ($1 from 370 Turk St. #227, San Francisco, CA 94102): A skate zine, which is a genre I'm seeing more of lately. A lot of this is letters from skateboarders all over the world, but there are features as well, plus some pages of silly collage. Includes suggestions on cheap clothes and eats in SF, as well as a map of the best skating spots in the city. There's also fairly heavy doses of skate philosophy. (T-20)

★★★★★

SIMPLE COOKING #23 ($16/yr from PO Box 58, Castine, ME 04421): A newsletter of good eating and making it that way. Editor John Thorne searches out good solid food, works out the best way to make it, and tells the readers. #23 is almost solely concerned with barbecue, though Creole champagne punch and lemon ice cream also make an appearance. Comes with a supplement, **MANGE TOUT**, of cookbook reviews. Simple and stylish. (S-12t)

★★★★★

SIPAPU Vol. 18 #2 ($4 from Noel Peattie, Route 1, Box 216, Winters, CA 95694): Noel is a socially conscious librarian, and this is a mix of notes from the profession and reviews of things worth reading. Though his use of the imperial We is a bit offputting at times, Noel has the good sense and good humor to make reading the mag an absolutely absorbing experience. I didn't think I could care about library politics, but I was wrong. And for the right-minded reader, he mentions lots of things I don't, from anti-nuke to beatnik poetry zines. (S-13t)

★★★★★

SIR REALIST #1 ($1.50 from PO Box 862, Athens, OH 45701): A new review of the small press — that is, a place for important articles to be reprinted and widely disseminated. Most of the contents of the premiere issue are political or social in nature, though Mojo Nixon's interview (from LIVELY ARTS) does sneak in. Otherwise you can read about George Bush and skinheads and the CIA and the nuclear Navy and more. The whole works better than I expected, and is rounded out by a few pages of zine reviews. (S-30)

★★★★★

SKEET'S FAN FORUM AND REVIEW #3 ($1.25 from Steve Keeter, 1003 E. Amelia St., Orlando, FL 32803): This is basically a place for comics publishers to get together and chat (or argue, as the case may be). Skeet has got a lot of the big names in small comics interested in the concept, and we can expect the accusations and boasts to start flying soon. He also reviews current small-press comics. (D-28r)

★★★★★

SKIN & BONES #4 ($1 from PO Box 49245, Austin, TX 78765): Good-looking coverage of the Austin scene, mainly music but also featuring local poetry. Besides lots of live coverage, #4 includes interviews with Verbal Abuse and 4-Front. Real nice layouts. There's also an Oklahoma City scene report. (D-32r)

★★★★★

SKIN TRADE #3 ($1.50 *CASH/MO ONLY* from Floyd, PO Box 869, Pomona, NJ 08240): "The punk/sex fanzine", this one is definitely fort he adolescent male. Peppered with pictures throughout, both clippings from porno mags and pics of girls at local shows, this stays fairly close to hardcore music. Show reviews rate the girls in the crowd as well as the band. #3 trumpets the pleasures of masturbating to porn videos and has more ideas on getting laid after shows. (S-22)

★★★★★

SLIMETIME #22-23 (50¢ from Steve Puchalski, 1108 E. Genesee St. #103, Syracuse, NY 13210): A real nice exploitation film rundown, with Steve's own wonderful commentary on some of the worst films of the past few decades. The highlight of #22, though, is the account of Hunter Thompson's election-night show at the Ritz, showing that the left doesn't have a hope either. #23 is back to all film reviews, from "Hallucination Generation" to "Return of the Killer Tomatoes". Blaxploitation, biker films, and odd monsters also get their attention. (S-8)

★★★★★

SMALL PRESS REVIEW #190 ($18/12 issues from Dustbooks, PO Box 100, Paradise, CA 95967): These folks have been watching the small press for 25 years, and as you might expect, they've learned to search for quality. Each issue reviews a few of the items most worthy of note, points out a dozen or so others, and gives the regular columnists a chance to do their thing. (S-16t)

★★★★★

SNAPSHOT #8 ($6 from Steve Peters, PO Box 16467, Santa Fe, NM 87506-6467): An audio-literary project. There are two parts to this issue. The first is a box filled with little slips of crumpled paper, in fall colors, with aphorisms and thoughts and paragraphs and gravestone rubbings and photos printed on them. The second is a tape of real-life noises: fences in the wind, arguments over dinner, people in the street, a woman in Nicaragua pounding tortillas, and so on. A nice slice of life that does get the feel of other people and places across. Looking for contributions for future issues. (About M-40 & tape)

★★★★★

SNIPEHUNT #3 ($1 from Mike King, PO Box 8603, Portland, OR 97207): Really exuberant Portland music tabloid that's riding the wave of the Northwest scene resurgence. There really do seem to be more good garage bands there than anywhere else, and a batch of them get in here, along with big-name folks like Frightwig and even director Russ Meyer. There's a whole pile of reviews too and a nifty graphic dsign that's a cross between cheep and inspired. (T-28t)

★★★★★

SNOWBUNI BLIZZARD #2-3 (2.50 from Jeff Wood, PO Box 95198, Seattle, WA 98145-2198): Snowbuni is this rather busty young lady with rabbit ears and a fuzzy tale, thanks to her living in a comic book universe. She's also a secret agent, and the strips here feature lots of good-natured mayhem and dashing about with strange technologies. Jeff has invited many artists to contribute to his creation, and while the style of art doesn't always remain constant, Snowbuni is always recognizable. (D-52)

★★★★★

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC #32 (75¢ from Industrial Union Party, PO Box 80, New York, NY 10159): Socialism as presented by ideological descendents of Daniel DeLeon. This puts them at odds with damned near everyone, from anarchists to unionists, but still they persist. The articles are a mix of basic socialist economic theory and analyses of the evils of the current system. (S-32)

★★★★★

SOCIETE Vol. 2 #1 ($5 from Technicians of the Sacred, 1317 N. San Fernando Blvd. #310, Burbank, CA 91504): The only serious journal I know of devoted to Voudon and other neo-African religious systems. #1 includes a basic primer on Macumba, a set of practices from Brazil, as well as diagrams from a Voudon workbook, a new Tarot, and notes on finding ceremonial plants. (S-48)

★★★★★

SOFT GEOMETRY (Probably Trade Only from Geza Perneczky, Gr. Witschg. 3-5, 5000 Koln-1, WEST GERMANY): A mail-art construction that (at least in this case) was personalized to the receiver. It centers around cat's cradles, with images of disembodied hands holding string in various configurations, and even the string itself looped into one page. Lots of hand work and original art here, suitable for display to enquiring friends. (A4-8)

★★★★★

SOLOMON'S SEAL #1 ($2 from Bill Bodden, PO Box 781, Madison, WI 53701-0781): A new literary outlet for fans of horror and the supernatural. Contents of this first issue include some lit-crit stuff (including Peter Larsen on the difficulty of communicating horror within science fiction) and Andrew Hooper's of harrowing travels through a sportsman's Wisconsin. (S-14t)

★★★★★

SOME STATES OF BEING ($2 from Chris Winkler, PO Box 61564, Phoenix, AZ 85082): A mini-chapbook from Plutonium Press. This is made up of a series of photos by the mysterious State Of Being, who attacks the raw material by means of collage, computer and xerographic techniques to create quite mysterious images. The sense is of humans lost in a material and technical world. (M-24)

★★★★★

THE SORCEROR'S SCROLLS #32 ($1.50 from Tori Bergquist, PO Box 117, San simon, AZ 85632): A zine for RPGers, with a focus on scenarios and rules, though there's a sprinkling of fiction and what-not as well. #32 includes some rules crocks for DC Super-Heroes and a couple of more-or-less complete adventures for a variety of systems. (D-38r)

★★★★★

SOUL STORY #4 (75¢ from PO Box 309, Valatie, NY 12184):A local fanzine that apparently hates everything. This makes it fun to read, as they enjoy themselves slagging off bands, records, stores, whatever. #4 includes an interview with Wolfpack and comparative reviews of the local cool (and not-so-cool) record stores. (D-28)

★★★★★

SOUND CHOICE #10 ($3 from PO Box 1251, Ojai, CA 93023): Well, everyone thought this was a dead zine, but they're back again, with little or no explanation but a hell of a lot of music reviews. They lead off with brief articles on things like the black-Indian music connection or the problems of excessive noise, but soon dive into the indie reviews — about fifty pages of 'em, most a few hundred words long. A spate of fanzines and classifieds wrap the whole package up. (S-94t)

★★★★★

THE SOURCE Vol. 1 #2 (Contribution from 496 Hudson St. G28, New York, NY 10014): A small newsletter about UFOs and related subjects. They reprint a longish article about the inflationary universe theory of cosmology, discuss "mysterious artifacts" found in China (again, a reprint) and so on. Looks like mainly filler flanked by ads. (D-16t)

★★★★★

SOURCES #9 ($1.50 from PO Box 1076, columbia, MD 21044): A New Age and holistic networking journal. Topics in #9 include an analysis of the facial features of the Presidential candidates, herbs for respiratory ailments, and a consumer guide to finding a metaphysical practitioner. Also includes local calendar & contact information. (S-40t)

★★★★★

SOUTHERN LIBERTARIAN MESSENGER Vol. XVII #6-8 ($6/yr from John Harllee, Route 10 Box 52A, Florence, SC 29501): John deploys the most potent of weapons, humor, against massive government. He does this by reprinting stories from all over that make it look increasingly silly to support big government. #6 came out in October and so is full of Libertarian electoral politics as well. #8 has a feature article speaking of the decline in accounting education. (S-18t)

★★★★★

SOUTHERN PARTISAN Vol. 8 #2 ($5.25 from PO Box 11708, Charleston, SC 29211): A magazine of traditional Southern culture from those who are proud of their past. This means, among other things, defending the CSA and the south's side in the Civil War. Mostly, though, they're about people: this time it's Patrick Henry, Paul Morphy, and Daisy Cave (one of the last surviving widows of a Civil War veteran). (S-50t)

★★★★★

SOUTHERN VOICE Vol. 1 #11-19 ($28/yr from PO Box 54719, Atlanta, GA 30308): A feisty tabloid for southern homosexuals headed "Taking Pride in Our Culture". They also seem determined not to take any shit, applauding those who stand up firmly for their rights. Along with a local events calendar they include a lot of politically-oriented news coverage. (T-16t)

★★★★★

SPINAL JAUNDICE #7 ($1 (?) from Mike, 7647 S. Pierce Way, Littleton, CO 80123): A music zine with some local coverage (the debate over the Warlock Pinchers trashing some program space) and a good deal more. The centerpiece here is an interview with John Trubee — it proves there's a lot more to him than just the infamous "Blind Man's Penis" record. The reviews are oddly fragmented, as though the writers were struggling to communicate through a haze of drugs or confusion. (S-28)

★★★★★

THE SPIRITUAL REVOLUTIONARY Vol. 1 #0 ($1 from S/R Press, PO Box 60327, Palo Alto, CA 94306-0327): The introductory issue of a letterzine devoted to Kyle Griffith's book **WAR IN HEAVEN** [see review below]. This issue consists of a sampling of reviews plus correspondence from some interested readers — including Ivan Stang and Mike Gunderloy. There's clearly something brewing about this particular breakthrough into the true nature of spiritual reality, though just what that is, I can't say. (S-20)

★★★★★

SPITTLE & PUKE 35 (50¢ from PO Box 4843, East Lansing, MI 48826): A small outpouring from the home of **BVI-CENTRAL**. There really isn't a whole lot here: a confusing letter about one of J. LeRoy's works, a dialogue about buying a gun, and some nekkid wimmen are about it. (S-3)

★★★★★

SPLATTER #3 ($1 & 65¢ in stamps from 4122 Prospect St., Los Angeles, CA 90027): A somewhat berserk collection of comics and poetry. Unfortunately many of the former are ultrareduced and heavily black — in keeping with their dark themese — making reading a bit of a strain. Perhaps that's just as well, for it will protect impressionable minds from the awful antisocial ideas here. Lots of doom and gloom and decline of society. (D-40)

★★★★★

SPROCKETS Fall 1988 ($3.95 from Martin Klug, 3745 Lindell Blvd. #906W, St. Louis, MO 63108): A zine about films, not necessarily horror or gore oriented, just B-grade (mostly). This issue includes Flint Mitchell's survey of snack foods for the movies, a Tanya Roberts profile and filmography, and an index to obscure movies arranged by stars. There's also both book and movie reviews, proving, I suppose, that one can be literate in two media at once. (HL-52r)

★★★★★

THE SQUEAKY FROMME SCRAPBOOK ($5 from Jack Stevenson, 171 Auburn St. #11, Cambridge, MA 02139): Jack's collection of stuff on one of the more curious of the Manson glas. Includes her high school annual photo, news clippings from her attempt to shoot President Ford, psychoanalysis and other coverage from previous books, and an interview done after her escape attempt. Also has a few of Squeaky's own letters. (S-56)

★★★★★

SRAF BULLETIN #105 ($3/6 issues from PO Box 11966, Salt Lake City, UT 84147): The Social Revolutionary Anarchist Federation has fallen on hard times, with very few people writing letters for publication anymore. Most of what is published tends to be debates on past slights or fruitcake ravings. Oh well. (S-12r)

★★★★★

STARLIGHT #12 ($2 or so from PO Box 452, 00101 Helsinki, FINLAND): If I understand them right, they can do more with US cash than with International Money Orders...downright strange. Anyhow, this is a pagan journal which I find quite exciting because they are attempting to rebuild an old and local way based largely on archaeological evidence. They also publish a bit of ecstatic poetry and some international contact addresses. Good fun. (A5-32)

★★★★★

STAR ROUTE JOURNAL Vol. 6 #10-12 ($1 from PO Box 1451, Redway, CA 95560-1451): "Whatever Happened to the Hippies?" is one of the running columns here, and one answer is that they're still around and feisty in Northern California. Editor Mary Anderson has been printign a lot of ecological stuff lately, including much on fighting the lumber companies. There's also poetry and cartoons and other fun stuff. #12, in fact, has a very literary cast, with reviews, poetry, and the winnders of their recent short fiction contest. Wonderfully relaxing and goodhumored. (T-24t)

★★★★★

STAR*TECH Vol. 2 #9-10 ($2.50 from PO Box 26599, Tempe, AZ 85285-6599): A serious astrology journal for people who understand the idea of statistical tests and are concerned with investigating and (if necessary and possible) reformulating the art into a valid science. They tend to be oriented towards computers and large databases and new ideas. (S-20t)

★★★★★

STORM WARNING! #10 (50¢ from Vietnam Veterans Against the War Anti-Imperialist, 4710 University Way NE #1612, Seattle, WA 98105): Hardcore anti-militarism from folks who were involved in one of our recent attempts to export the American Way of Life to some other country, raping and killing along the way. They get into all sorts of mischief still, leading protests against the likes of Ollie North, printing obnoxious anti-draft propaganda, and so on. #10 includes some reflections on the Presidio Mutiny by one of the mutineers. (D-20t)

★★★★★

STRANGE DAYS #11 (*"Information about the disappearance of jazz musician Glenn Miller in 1944"* from 2225 Montego Dr., Lansing, MI 48912): A wild combination of conspiracy theory, subtle SubGenial references, and ranting. This issue is subtitled "Communist pitbulls from space", and the argument begins with the proposition that we ought to dedicate teh city of Detroit to breeding gentle pit bulls. But from there we get to control of youth via rock music, the truth behind the economy, soul-bearing stenches, and much more, in a hash of clippings and original ravings. (S-12)

★★★★★

STRANGE NOISE #3 ($1 (?) from John Rickman, 8312 Greenock Dr., Richmond, VA 23235): A zine for electronic, industrial, and other noisy music. As the Audio reviews below will tell you, there is a great deal of this stuff, so John could really expand this if he wants to. Meanwhile, #3 includes interviews with Arms of Someone New, Algebra Suicide, and Carl Howard, as well as a passle of reviews. (S-22)

★★★★★

STRANGER ZINE #6 ($1 & a stamp from Eric Szantai, 15 Van Saun Dr., Trenton, NJ 08628): A killer collage cover leads off this issue with a strong statement about American militarism. Inside, though, it's all music and mostly hardcore. Interviews include Kevin Seconds, Pagan Babies and Stand-Up! There's also a ton of live show reports from Philly to NYC and a batch of quick zine reviews. (S-16t)

★★★★★

STREET #58 ($20/yr from PO Box 441019, Somerville, MA 02144): This Boston-area alternative tabloid is shrinking, begging for money, and changing its look — not a promising combination. While their coverage of social justice issues (notably that of homelessness) remains strong, the rest is becoming a stew of attempts to catch jaded attention spans long enough to get a fwe bucks. A good project, but one that appears doomed by the financial state of the city. (T-32t)

★★★★★

STREET PHARMACOLOGIST NEWSLETTER Summer 1988 ($25/yr from 5701 Biscayne Blvd. #602, Miami, FL 33137): "Up Front Drug Information" from a group that seems to be against drug use but not hysterical about it. Most of this issue focuses in on the rise of methamphetamine as a street drug, especially out west. They also run a confidential testing lab. (S-8t)

★★★★★

STROKER #41 ($9/3 issues from 129-2nd Ave. #3, New York, NY 10003): A magazine from a literary in-group that has little connection with the underground I specialize in, making it hard to evaluate. The main players here are two: Henry Miller (in reprint and appreciation) and Tommy Trantino, prison author & artist. Editor Irving Stettner orchestrates a series of letters and short pieces between these big guns, and does so in a comfy, all-friends manner. But it's a hard circle to break in to. (D-52)

★★★★★

STRUGGLE WITH REALITY (50¢ from Joe Franke, 2288 Hawk, Simi Valley, CA 93065): A chapbook that moves from "YOU HAVE TO BE INHUMAN" to "NOW I AM LEFT OUT". In between Joe wrestles with what it is to live in an alienated society, takes a plane trip (described in excruciating detail) and comes up with a bunch of one-liners for our times ("Things have worked out when the twisted persisted." (D-16t)

★★★★★

STUFF #13-14 ($1.50 from Jabberwocky Graphix, PO Box 166255, Irving, TX 75016): A top-notch minicomic featuring work from lots of artists. These two issues wrap up Ted Bolman's bizarre rhyming alphabet, for which it is worth buying lots of back issues. There's also a homage to MC Escher in #14 from Brad Foster, as well as a couple of hilarious Steve Willis strips. #13 exposes the truth behind several celebrities: Baby Godzilla and Garfield. Nice work with 2-color covers. (M-20)

★★★★★

SUBLIME SLIME Vol. 9 #5 ($1 (?) from 21925 Meridian Ave. S., Bothell, WA 98021): The tenth anniversary issue of this humor zine, which has gone through a few titles in that decade. It leads off with the usual satirical gems (top five segments of the US economy: McDonalds, crack, 7-11s, cheap handguns, and how-to business books). Afterwards there are reprinted highlights from rare back issues. Amusing and wedged. (S-23)

★★★★★

SUBURBAN VOICE #26 ($1 from Al Quint, PO Box 1605, Lynn, MA 01903): Al still listens to more hardcore than I ever hope to and manages to think of fresh things to say about it. But before you get to the reviews, there are plenty of interviews to wade through: everything from the fury of Agnostic Front to the straightedge views of Crucial Youth. One of the remaining grand old zines of punk. (S-48r)

★★★★★

SUDS'N'STUFF Vol. 5 #9/10-11/12 ($12.97/yr from Beer Drinkers International, PO Box 6402, Oceanside, CA 92056): A newsletter for beer drinkers, featuring a variety of silly articles, beer coasters, and short reviews. #9/10 was an abbreviated issue, but contained a complimentary copy of the much larger **ALL ABOUT BEER**, reviewed above. 11/12 is heftier, with a selection of ads for beer-related gifts and the return of the regular columns and features. (S-16)

★★★★★

A SUITABLE JOB FOR A WOMAN #7 ($1.50 from Sharon Rose, 203 Talley Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37411): A meeting point for women and mysteries, done in the form of a letterzine (i.e., all written by the readers). Various topics include female detectives, the ins and outs of publishing small mystery books, sexual mores in the mystery novel, and so on. It's a small group but a friendly and well-read and thoughtful one. (S-18)

★★★★★

THE SUN #153 ($3 from 412 W. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill, NC 27516): "A Magazine of Ideas", this seems to be a cross between the litmag and the New Age. Inside #153 are an essay by D. Patrick Miller on *A Course in Miracles*, a selection of aphorisms from Paul Williams, and several short stories. Irving Weiss provides selected quotes on childhood while readers discuss the essence of having fun. Thoughtful but rather formal and stilted. (S-40t)

★★★★★

SUPER TROUPER #5 (13p (but send some IRCs) from Pretty Publications, 81 Castelregg Drive, Burnley, Lancashire, BB12 8AT, ENGLAND): Mostly short reviews, mostly of literary stuff, mostly from England though with a smattering from elsewhere. They close with a few pages of poetry, including offerings from John Bennett and Belinda Subraman. (A4-8)

★★★★★

THE SURVIVOR Vol. 7 #3 ($10/12 issues from PO Box 327, Harrison, AR 72601): A mix of survivalist writing and reprints of old woodworking, silkscreening and other crafts projects by the author of the **POOR MAN'S JAMES BOND**. Though I find some of his apocalyptic fantasies hard to credit (like the Russian pouring over the Bering Strait after a nuke war), I must admit that I do learn new things about poisons and explosives in most every issue. (T-16t)

★★★★★

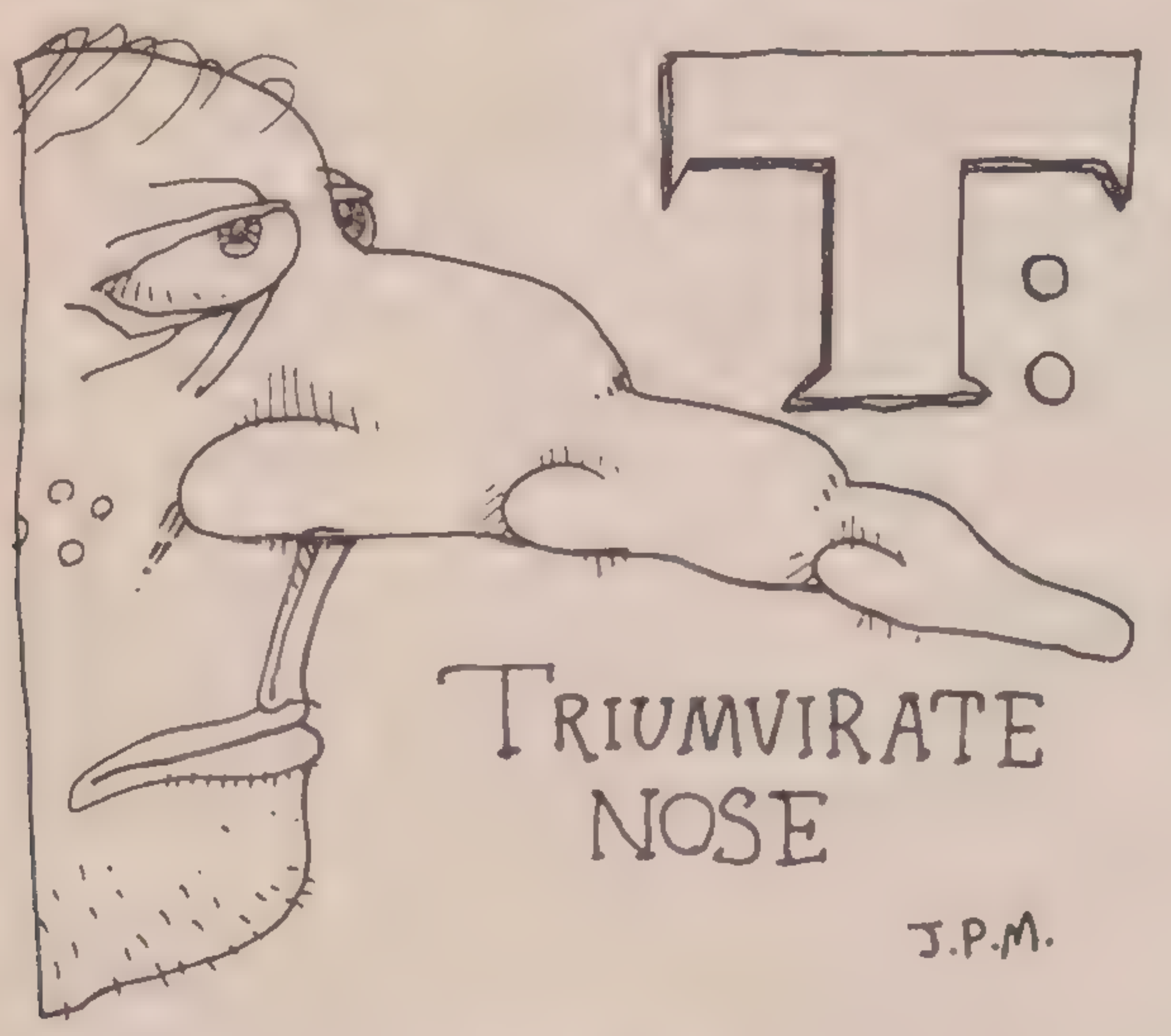
SWAN SONGS OF A FORGOTTEN REPTILE (75¢ from Jason Whitley, 110 White Terr., Athens, GA 30605): A collection of four short comics. I really enjoyed "Suffer Not From the Hands of a Lesser God", which propounds a novel theory on the origins of gods. Jason's art is detailed and well laid-out, stretching from realism to psychedelia as the story demands. (D-20)

★★★★★

SWEET & SWISHY Vol. 3 #3-4 ($2 from White Knight Productions, PO Box 656, Wautoma, WI 54982): A newsletter for "the long hair enthusiast". This is 90% reprints, mainly of young women (occasionally young men) captured in photograph for commercial purposes. Lots of cute young folks here, together with occasional written coverage. Of note in #4 is the article (from a recent **PLAYBOY** forum) on the government creation of the kiddie porn business. (S-14)

★★★★★

THE SWEET RIDE #11 ($1 & stamp from 1250 Tutwiler #2, Memphis, TN 38107): Just to remind you, this zine of cultural miscellany is now under new management — Peter Mantis has taken over from founder Randy Russell. The title is the strongest connection, as the coverage is a bit more madcap and less polished than Randy's ever was. #11 includes music and zine reviews, thoughts on vcrs, and angry letters. (D-24r)



★★★★★

TAKE STAGE! Vol. 1 #1 (On request from PO Box 7194, Westchester, IL 60153): "A Publication for Chicago's Acting Community", this is published by the same folks who bring us **NEW PLAYS AND PLAYWRIGHTS**. This time the focus is on the people on stage. Articles deal with "How To", for the most part, by talking to currently-successful actors and directors. (S-24t)

★★★★★

TALES FROM ROSLYN #1 ($1 from Ed Zolna, PO Box 1278, Roslyn, PA 19001): A "stripbook" from the creator of Fran & Maabl, and in fact featuring those same characters. Ed's work seems better in this near-minicomic format, with the out-of-paper asides working quite well. The plot concerns a wayward flying saucer that intrudes into the idyllic surroundings of a summer vacation in the country, and a case of puppy lust between alien and forest-critter. (M-24)

★★★★★

TALES FROM THE RATHOUSE #9 (50¢ (?) from PO Box 460607, San francisco, CA 94146-0607): A pretty unfocused alternative publications. This one leads off with some political critique, including an impassioned claim that the major parties are run by aliens trying to take us over. Then comes a batch of music reviews ,followed by books and some more social commentary. Vaguely leftist but generally disorganized. (S-8r)

★★★★★

TECNO BODY WAY #1 ("Only available for exchange with other comix magazines" from Enrico Aresu, Via Nazionale-42 95045, Piano Tavola (Ct), ITALY): Underground neopsychedelic comics with various pages captioned in English, Italian, or "phonetic Trillimulian". Judging by the screwiness of the English page I suspect that language is not much barrier to understanding these romps of sex and hallucinations. (A4-24)

★★★★★

TECHNOPHILIACS ANONYMOUS NEWSLETTER #2 (Donation from 6114 LaSalle Ave. #243, Oakland, CA 94611): These folks are trying to get public discussion going on about what they call the "hidden effects of technology on people and their society." Their major concern seems to be that some of us substitute technology for interaction with both nature and other humans, and that tehre might be something wrong here. However they make it quite clear that they are not opposed to technology itself, only to these hidden effects. (L-6t)

★★★★★

TEJAS VERDE Vol. 1 #4 ($5/yr from North Texas Greens, 6301 Gaston #344): A networking zine for Greens in North Texas and nearby. They seem to be operating under the policy of printing most everything their members think is important enough to send in, so the type size is a tad small in places. The concentration is on recent and future actions and proposals for policies to support. (L-7r)

★★★★★

TEMPLE OF SCHLOCK #13-14 ($4.50/6 issues from 409 Hixson Ave., Syracuse, NY 13206): This gore/sleaze/B-movie review is suffering from the small zine syndrome of trying to cram too much in; the lack of any margins makes reading tedious. But persevere, and you'll find reviews of gems like Barbarian Queen, Shanty Tramp, and Dolemite in #13, along with a piece on the demise of Empire International. #14 takes a look at imported Soviet flicks as well as the usual gore and presents some of the silliest dialog from various B-movies. Dave Szurek's ravings appear in every issue as well. (D-12r)

★★★★★

TERATA PUBLICATION

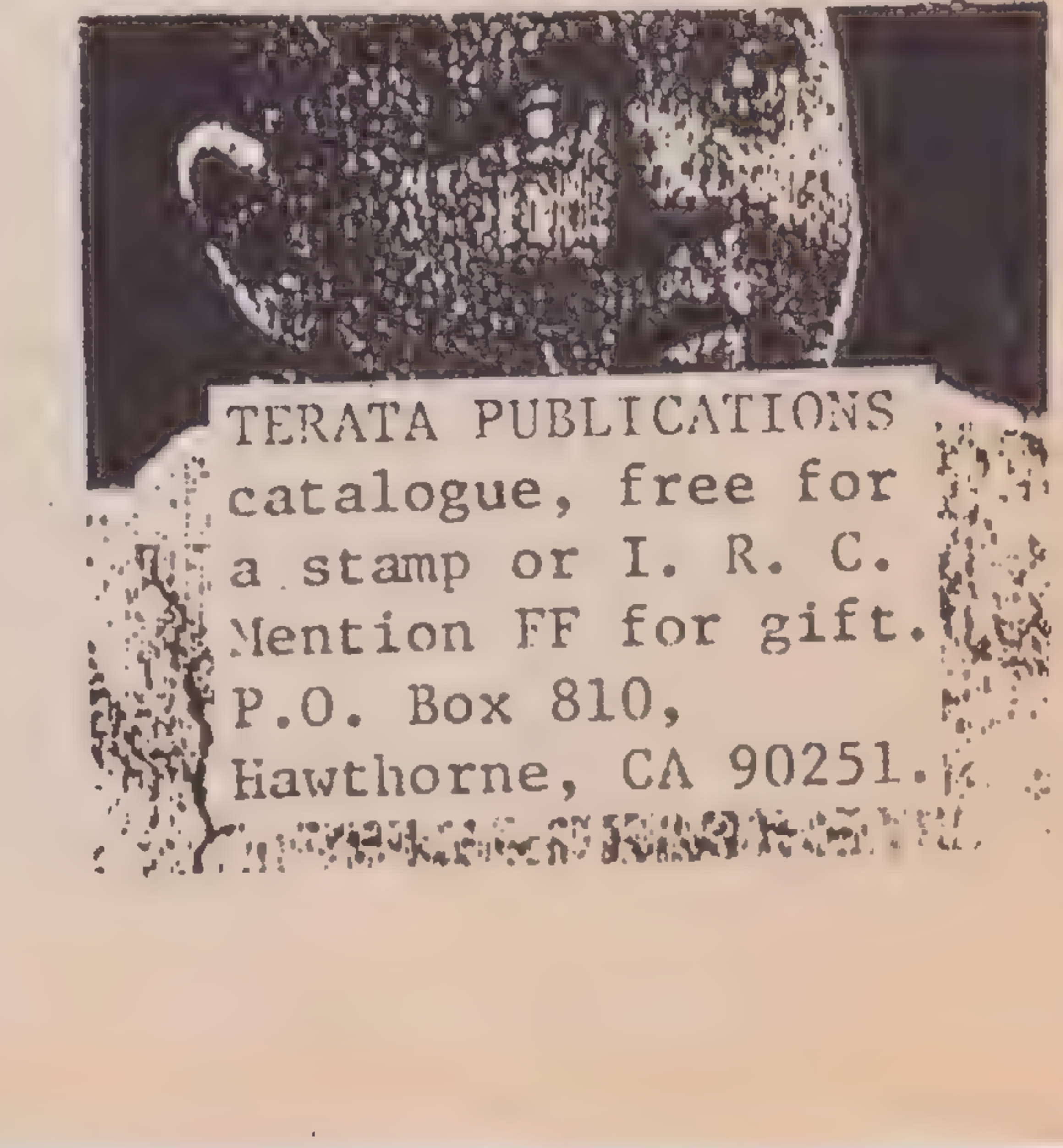
This is Todd Mecklem's imprint for a variety of small publishing. There's a lot more from Terata than the few I mention below; for a catalog, send a stamp, SASE or IRC to PO Box 810, Hawthorne, CA 90251, which is also the address for ordering.

- **THE HUNTER/KEIM PACKET** ($1.50): A pair of minis of dubious sensibility. Phil Hunter contributes **EUTHANASIA RECORD**, a collection of multi-layered writings (literally; the layout is layers deep) and scrawly cartoons. From Larry Keim comes **WOOD**, a bit of confusing dialogue and inkblots from a sketchily-drawn youth hostel. The pair come in a ziploc bag with some plastic flies. (M-8,M-8)
- **HANSEN'S DISEASE IS LEPROSY** (SASE): A collection of short pieces with no connection beyond the fact that they all report on unlikely occurences in the world, whether this be decades ago in the form of a miraculous rescue or very recently in the form of a humiliated sissy. (HS-8r)

★★★★★

TERMINAL ZONE #1 ($6 from Red Herring Press, PO Box 24706, Los Angeles, CA 90024): "Alternative writings on music and culture". This is a heavy-duty package with some extremely esoteric academic analysis (as with "Postmodernism and Popular Culture" or even "The Sexual Politics of Women's Blues".) But they also do some relatively accessible things like talk to Mark Mothersbaugh or compare the fates of Jello Biafra, Lenny Bruce, and Bertholt Brecht. They do quite a lot of stuff on freedom of culture, actually. Other interviews include George Clinton and James Brown. A coffee-table zine, all slick paper and wide-open layouts and a few arty photos. (S-150t)

★★★★★


TERATA PUBLICATIONS
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a stamp or I. R. C.
Mention FF for gift.
P.O. Box 810,
Hawthorne, CA 90251.

THE TERRA NOVA LETTER Late 1988 (On Request from Nick Turner, 235 Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94301): A journal "whose purpose is to encourage the evolution of a harmonious, peaceful, and enlightened human civilization throughout the solar system." These ambitious plans are tempered by a fine sense of humor; there are articles here on various New Age-sounding topics like the structure of awareness and the recent convention on the astral plane in Antarctica. (D-20t)

★★★★★

TERRAPIN SYNDICATE BULLETIN #3 (1 IRC from Lot Duran No. 3, Pouydesseaux, 40120 Roquefort, FRANCE): An international mail art contact sheet focusing mainly on Europe. It gives quick announcements and details on a variety of upcoming shows. (A4-1)

★★★★★

LE TERRIEN ($1 from Laurent Boyer, BP86, 33038 Bdx Cedex, FRANCE): A small collection of collage and drawings with a vaguely anti-industrial feel to them. The people portrayed seem to be trapped in the cogs of the machine, sometimes without realizing their plight. Laurent also has various other artistic odds and ends available, probably for trade. (M-12)

★★★★★

THE TERRITORIAL HERALD Vol. IX #1 (75¢ from PO Box 7075, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677): The newsletter of the Free Territory of Ely-Chatelaine, a household monarchy which is in the process of becoming somewhat more open to democracy. #1 features a eulogy for the Emperor Hirohito and the announcement of the Royal Academy of Philosophy, which may perhaps be intended as an alternative to the Philosopher's Guild, another Southern California group. (HL-12r)

★★★★★

TETE DE LOUP FLINGUE DEVALISANT LES SUCS DE L'ASTRE NOIR (? from ed. Reseau 666, c/o Th. Tillier, 15, Avenue Clementine, 1060 Bruxelles, BELGIUM): A collaborative work of collage and text by Dominque Lapaire, Philippe Pissier, and Thierry Tillier. the visuals are full of bondage, both photographed and drawn, and from what I can tell the text is on roughly the same subject. There may be some philosophically redeeming point here for the reader of French but I doubt it. (A4-56)

★★★★★

THE TEXAS OASIS Nov. 1988 (Donation from PO Box 7292, University Stn., Austin, TX 78713): Newsletter of the Texas Earth First! group. It's not filled with cowboy redneck misanthropy (as is the national journal), but mostly reports of recent actions. Lately they've been defending birds, insects that live in caves, and rattlesnakes. (S-6t)

★★★★★

THE TEXAS SF INQUIRER #25-26 ($1.50 from FACT, PO Box 9612, Austin, TX 78766): This sfanzine has recently won a Hugo Award but lost an editor (Pat Mueller now runs **PIRATE JENNY** instead), and it's taking a while for the chaos to settle down and a new voice to emerge. #25 is pretty much a utility issue; a batch of news, eulogies for recently-dead writers, a few reviews and some locs, but nothing to shine. #26 improves substantially, with better reviews, convention reports, and other articles. Call it a service fanzine and you won't be far wrong. (S-24t)

★★★★★

THEATRE IAO ($1 (?) from PO Box 26370, Dallas, TX 75226): Ecstatic and cryptic ravings, apparently influenced by such as "Bob" Dobbs, Robert Anton Wilson, Aleister Crowley and Jimmy Swaggert. There is little attempt to form coherent sentences or even to communicate on other than a gut level; in fact, there seems little reason to publish with such disregard for the audience. (S-17)

★★★★★

THIS MONTH IN MAINE LITERATURE Nov.-Dec. 1988 ($20/yr from Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance, 19D Mason St., Brunswick, ME 04011): The November issue features a survey of Northeastern artists' colonies. Your subscription is tax-deductible and includes a discount on a variety of Maine books. In December they talk to the publishers of **THE UNDERGROUND FOREST**, which commutes between Maine and Argentina. (T-12t)

★★★★★

THIS ZINE SUCKS #13-14 ($1.25 from 1601 Scenic Dr. West, Trenton, NJ 08628): A pretty hefty punk and hardcore music zine. Oddly enough, they lead off with poetry each time, perhaps to set an artistic mood for what's to follow. Record and zine reviews complete the warmup, leading into a pile of interviews. In #14 this includes the N.Y. Citizens, Prong, and Crucial Youth. More record and live reviews are scattered throughout, so you don't know what's around the next page. Not too deep anywhere, but it doesn't really suck either. (S-32)

★★★★★

THE THOUGHT Vol. 8 #10-12 ($1 from PO Box 3092, Orange, CA 92665): The boundaries of this thought are getting wider all the time. Though centered in libertarian and anarchist ideas, editor Ron Tobin now ranges as far afield as the Earth Concert Project or the problems of education. #10 includes more documentation on the feud between Fred Woodworth and Bob Black. #12 has Avi Naftel's advice on the pros and cons of being an outlaw. (S-22)

★★★★★

THREADBARE #10 ($1.50 from PO Box 20681, Seattle, WA 98102-1681): A SubGenius production that is getting into some heavy paranoia about the coming right-wing takeover of this country (or maybe it's already happened). With folks like Kerry Thornley and Chris Winkler writing for them, they manage to present a scary picture of what's going on now, and suggest it's time to start thinking about a *real* political underground, complete with safe houses and so on. (S-10r)

★★★★★

THRUST #32 ($2.50 from 8217 Langport Terr., Gaithersburg, MD 20877): A semipro science fiction zine that's nicely solid. John Shirley's autobiography and Dick Geis's long-buried correspondence from Robert Heinlein are the highlights of #32. David Bischoff explains the novelization business in some detail, and of course there are reviews of recent books and movies. (S-31t)

★★★★★

TIC TOC #6 (IRCs from Romj, 84 av. du G. de Gaulle, 92140 Clamart, FRANCE): This is the "robot" issue of this graphic arts mini, featuring dozens of small sketches of robots. There's a second color on most of the pages and a novel centerfold which appears to be color ditto — a rarity these days. Mail-art in a booklet. (M-44)

★★★★★

TLC INTERNATIONAL Vol. 1 #6-7 ($12/12 issues from PO Box 020261, State Island, NY 10302-0003): A magazine for "the exotic individualist", which seems to be roughly synonymous with "swinger". They don't run swingers' ads, though, preferring instead to reprint scraps of their correspondence on topics such as lust, ghosts, and perversion. Pretty tame, actually, though some of the contacts in #7 seem to be leading to hotter things. (S-10)

★★★★★

TODAY'S CHRISTIAN WOMAN Nov./Dec. 188 ($3.50 from 465 Gundersen Dr., Carol Stream, IL 60188): Basically a woman's magazine with some faith stirred in. There are articles here about getting along with your spouse, recipes to make, holiday ideas, and surviving abuse. This issue also features an interview with Amy Grant about her home life. (S-80t)

★★★★★

THE TORCH, Nov. 15, 1988 (50¢ from Box 1288, GPO, New York, NY 10116): The publication of the Revolutionary Socialist League. Depending on who you talk to, these Trotskyite socialists are either moving in an anarchist direction or trying to co-opt the anarchist movement. In any case, the November issue is full of cheerful articles on the Pentagon blockade, as well as the usual fetishism of workers. Some articles are reproduced in Spanish, a nice touch. (T-16t)

★★★★★

TRANET #55 ($30/6 issues from PO Box 567, Rangely, ME 04970): A clearinghouse for information on alternative technology and related topics. In short blurbs — about the length of an FF review — they discuss everything from farming in South Africa to solar water pumps to mobile health labs to other sources of information. A resource for those willing to do a little footwork to follow up. (S-16t)

★★★★★

TRANSITIONS ABROAD Nov. 1988 ($15/5 issues from PO Box 344, amherst, MA 01004-9970): "The Magazine of Overseas Opportunities", this one is geared to long-term travellers who wish to get immersed in other cultures. Exchange programs, volunteer opportunities, living cheaply, the Peace Corps, and assorted other topics keep their pages quite packed. This issue focuses on the Americas, with a nice range of alternatives for the hardy soul. (S-52t)

★★★★★

TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES Vol. 14 #1-2 ($10/yr from Case Postale 161, 1211 Geneva 16, SWITZERLAND): A magazine for "the peaceful settlement of disputes" that continues to try to come up with new ideas to ease international tensions. #1 focuses on Central America and Afghanistan, concentrating on the human effects of the major powers' violations of international law. #2 takes a peek at bioregionalism and environmental effects of war. Both contain many book reviews as well as notes from the growing international grassroots cassette culture. (A4-46t)

★★★★★

TRANSPLAGIARIST FINE A4 ARTWERKS (Exchange only from Alessandro Aiello, via Naroa 161, 98035 Giardini (Me), ITALY): A collection of photocopied and distorted artworks that attempt to reclaim all images anywhere for artistic purposes. The purveyors do not recognize the unartisticness of anything, not even engineering drawings or biographical sketches: if they find it, they can cram it in. Minimal words, but those few are in Italian. Comes with a few other random mail art booklets as stuffers. (A4-24)

★★★★★

TRAPPED BY MAGNETIC FORCES ($1 from John Porcellino, 1954 Brookside Ln., Hoffman Estates, IL 60194): A comic, I suppose, though it looks more like an art collection. There is a plot of sorts running through these angry lines, featuring some sort of caped hero figure, aluminized rays, and death and doom. The artist seems to feel strongly about it all, though it's not clear to me why. Heavy-duty shadows add to the starkness here. (S-20)

★★★★★

TRASH COMPACTOR Vol. 2 #2 ($4.50 from 253 College St. #108, Toronto, ONT M5T 1R5, CANADA): An extremely well-done fanzine of trashy films of all sorts. The theme this time around is Japanese monster movies, and there's lots of stuff on the rubber-suit crowd, but they find room for much more: blaxploitation, women in prison flicks, ancient porno, teens in trouble movies, and so on. Plenty of photos and very nice layout make this the classiest of the lowbrow movie zines. (S-40t)

★★★★★

TRAY FULL OF LAB MICE PUBLICATIONS ($3 from Melissa & Matt Jasper, PO Box 303, Durham, NH 03246): A spiffy-looking litmag — gilded edges and color covers — that has something to say as well. Mostly this is poetry, in various shades of surrealism, but rather touching. Better yet are the short stories, Jeffrey Scott's "Mehmet and Me" and Dan Leone's "Ed's Day". Overall, this one left me smiling, kicked out of my usual ruts with fresh imagery and strange ideas. (D-70t)

★★★★★

TREETOP PANORAMA #14 ($8/2 yrs from RR1, Box 160, Payson, IL 62360): A journal of political thought with a community and agricultural base. Editor Jared Scarborough is trying to help steer us towards a more humane future in which a sort of caring radicalism replaces the widespread cynicism that now runs things. Proposals in this issue range from changing the welfare system to reforming the primary election process. They also publish short fiction and news bits. (S-32)

★★★★★

TROUT IN THE MILK #4 (The Usual from Pete Strover, 8 Terry Road, Stoke, Coventry CV1 2AW, ENGLAND): This emerged from the roleplaying game community, but nowadays it is mostly a personalzine, with Pete chatting about what he will. This time that includes KoanCon and some bizarre Almanac. Pete also refers to all of his readers and letter-writers by anagrams of their names, leading to some bizarre imagery indeed. On the back of the zine, running in reverse, is found **SOFT CONSTRUCTION** #IIIb, another personalzine by Kay Dekker, who this time conducts a fascinating investigation into the English depository library laws. Idiosyncratic indeed. (A5-44r)

★★★★★

TROUT TIMES #16 ($4/yr from Mark Strickert, 3852 N. Oconto, Chicago, IL 60634): There doesn't appear to be any particular guiding reason behind this mishmash. Mark rants a little about the need to vote, priunts some poetry (both sarcastic and serious) and reproduces in miniature some images from our society. (M-12)

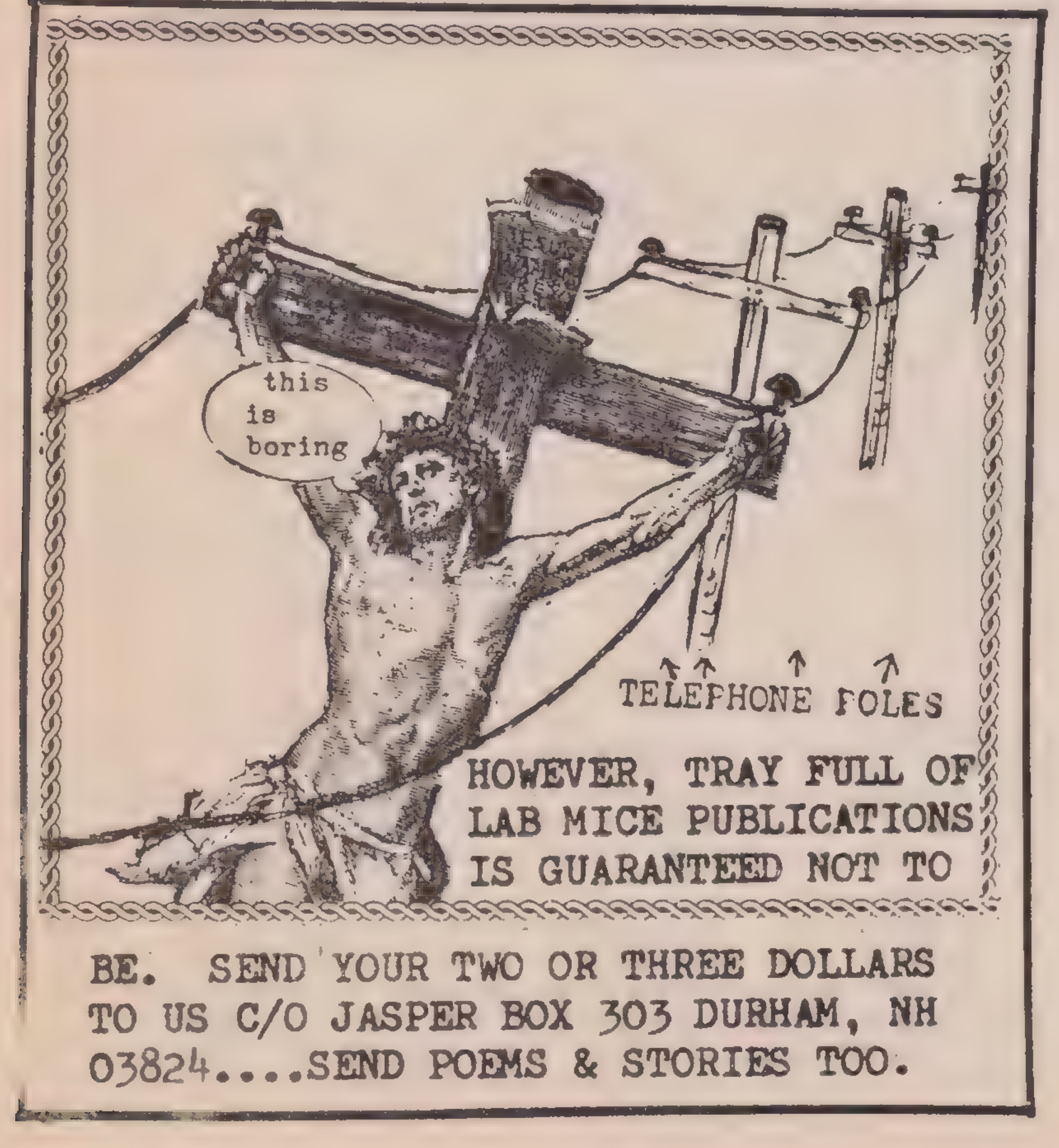
★★★★★

TRUST #15-16 (3DM from Dolf Hermannstadter jun, Salzmanstr. 53, 8900 Augsburg, WEST GERMANY): Try an IMO or lots of IRCs to get this, or they may trade with other punkzines. Exuberant coverage of harcore music in Europe, with lots of photos and a layout somewhat reminiscent of **FLIPSIDE** but on better paper. There's a "Foreigner Page" in English but the rest will help you polish your German skills. #16 features Mykel Board on Scumrock, as well as SNFU and Naked Raygun. (A4-64r)

★★★★★

TRUST OBEY ($1 from John Bergin, 4503 Washington St., Kansas City, MO 64111): Those of you familiar with John's stark artistic style won't need much urging to pick up a copy of this booklet, filled with images of power and authority. The little gold button on the cover suddenly becomes obvious when one gets to the mushroom cloud at the end of it all. (M-24)

★★★★★



HOWEVER, TRAY FULL OF LAB MICE PUBLICATIONS IS GUARANTEED NOT TO BE. SEND YOUR TWO OR THREE DOLLARS TO US C/O JASPER BOX 303 DURHAM, NH 03824....SEND POEMS & STORIES TOO.

TRUTH EFFORT #2 (Contribution from Nathan, 8 Bloomfield Dr., Mount Holly, NJ 08060): Another outlet for unbridled creativity. Music and fanzine reviews, a poetry page, an interview with Uncle Bob touched me, and some random thoughts from Nathan make up this issue. Nathan is anxious just to communicate with people, so this is available for stamps, money, or just sending your address. (D-16)

★★★★★

TURNING THE TIDE Vol. 1 #1-Vol. 2 #1 ($2.50/yr *stamps/Postal MO to "Boxholder"* from P.A.R.T., PO Box 10488, Burbank, CA 91510): A broadside zine from People Against Racist Terror, a new group in the L.A. area trying to promote anti-racism. The first issue takes a look at the major racist organizations in the L.A. area, from the White Aryan Resistance to the JDL, and recounts a few of the atrocities in recent months. #2 continues the rogue's gallery and court reporting. They've also got an anti-klan hotline at (213)-281-7928. (S-4)

★★★★★

TUSSIN-UP #8-9 (75¢ from S. Millen, 429 S. Henderson #2, Bloomington, IN 47401): A voice crying out in the wilderness of Indiana University, determined to have some fun. At various times this zine has attacked local politicians, ROTC, the Grateful Dead, the folks who run IU, other zines, local employers, and many more. They even talk about music once in a while, but the cheerfully irreverent attitude makes even that interesting. (D-16t)

★★★★★

TUTTI GOES TO HELL ($1 from 1601 Scenic Dr. West, Trenton, NJ 08628): A surreal comic from a sometime-cover artist for **THIS ZINE SUCKS**. The basic plot is lifted in part from ALICE IN WONDERLAND, but Tutti is no sweet little girl. Instead he's a creepy dude who ends up getting into a lot of trouble with talking silverfish, animated cakes, and even God in person. (S-18)

★★★★★

TWIN CITIES GAZE #71 ($24/24 issues from 9 N. 4th St. #212, Minneapolis, MN 55401): A paper for gays and lesbians in the Twin cities. Much of #71 is centered around National Coming Out Day, an event held this past October to encourage folks to "take the next step" in becoming visible in their communities. Of interest are excerpts from the computer BBS they run at 338-4127. (T-20t)

★★★★★

TWOHEADED DOG #5 ($2 from Erik Weems, 210 Carpenter Dam Rd., Hot Springs, AR 71901): A small comics digest with some good work in it. The best part is a little strip by Dan Burke, in which the editor gets a severe pummeling. There's also an interview with plenty of artwork by Robin Ator and a strip from Rico which I found to be frankly too confusing to follow. (D-36)

★★★★★

TWO MANY COMICS #1 (75¢ from Liam Brooks, 11439A. Ptarmigan Dr., Austin, TX 78758): A collection of short strips from Liam. Jake the Rabbit makes a lengthy appearance "Living his life, while people read this comic", which breaks the boundaries of the page a wee bit. Too many dark panels here, but entertaining anyhow. (M-16)

★★★★★

U&lc. Vol. 15 #4 (#15/yr from International Typeface Corp., 2 Hammarskjold Plaza, New York, NY 10017): Partly a plug for ITC products, this one also features much interesting information on both graphic design and typesetting. They look at successful works from Peter Rabbit to El Al posters and try to ferret out the qualities that make them memorable. Lush reproductions and typeface samples are the order of the day. Free subs available to those in the industry. (T-76t)

★★★★★

UFO Vol. 3 #4 ($3 from 1800 S. Robertson Blvd. #355, Los Angeles, CA 90035): A rather ambitious magazine for UFOlogical research and speculation. #4 focuses on the role of tlevision in revealing or covering up UFOs (depending on who you believe). They also carry vignettes on a lot of people involved in this research and report on the latest news. Tends to be rather sensationalistic but not overboard gullible. (S-48t)

★★★★★

UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE #231 ($5 from Route 1 Box 220, Plumerville, AR 72127): Just what it says, a collection of clippings about UFOs for dozens of local and national papers and news magazines. They're presented in clear photocopy form, without editorial intrusions from the publishers here. (L-19t)

★★★★★

THE UNDERGROUND GRAMMARIAN Vol. 12 #6-7 ($15/8 issues from PO Box 203, Glassboro, NJ 08028): A continuing crotchety journal of education — or, considering their disdain of "educationalists", of learning. Specifically, UG comments on current stories featuring educational bafflegab and strange new exercises in the classroom, pointing out as best it can the insanities involved. (D-8t)

★★★★★

THE UNICORN Vol. XII #2 ($10/8 issues from PO Box 8814, Minneapolis, MN 55408): The graphic look of this neopagan zine continues to evolve, with new typesetting allowing them to get more material than ever into their pages. #2 includes some reflections on astral travel, more herbal lore, and the usual selection of fine art. (S-10t)

★★★★★

UPDATE 10/19/88 (On Request from PO Box 84116, San Diego, CA 92138): A single-sheet collection of freethought notes, rather aggressively directed against religious belief. As a historian of science, I have to say that the picture of Galileo in this issue is rather oversimplified, but it makes a nice legend. (S-2r)

★★★★★

THE UPRIGHT OSTRICH Vol. VII #10-Vol. VIII #1 ($3 from PO Box 11691, Milwaukee, WI 53211): A Constitutionalist zine that provides many ways into the movement, along with allied ones like the search for oil-company-free power sources. #10 came out just prior to the elections and contained more strong urgings not to re-elect anyone. #11 pursues their arguments against Unicor, the Federal Prison industries/slave labor system. (S-16t)

★★★★★

URBAN RAG #9 (50¢ from Jonathan Ment, 732 E. 22nd St., Brooklyn, NY 11210): This is a pleasant little music zine. One nice thing is that Jonathan manages to keep the live show reviews fresh and interesting rather than just "then this band played and they sucked" that you see so many places. Short reviews of records and zines are intermixed, along with collage layouts, poetry, and Baboon. (D-16r)

★★★★★

USSR NEWS BRIEF No. 17/18-23 1988 ($22/yr from das Land und Die Welt eV, Schwanthalerstr. 73, 8000 Munchen 2, WEST GERMANY): A detailed collection of news on human rights in the Soviet Union. It includes much information on names and dates, and is an invaluable reference during this time of upheaval in the USSR. Special sections cover such topics as events in Latvia and Azerbaijan. (D-22r)

★★★★★

VANITY (Trade from OIC, PO Box 1486, Hoboken, NJ 07030): The title of this one keeps changing, but the contents are still a mix of comics, collage, and other visual arts. IT's hard for me to focus on the whole, because I'm so pleased by Martha Keavney's "Badly-Drawn Comix", a lovely batch of self-referential work. There are more serious pieces here, as well as confusing Fermilab references and well-drawn humor. Playful stuff. (S-20)

★★★★★

VDT NEWS Vol. V #6 ($15 from PO Box 1799, Grand Central Stn., New York, NY 10163): Probably the best way to keep up with the continued battle over the possible health effects of VDTs (Video Display Terminals — like the one I'm looking at as I type this). They report epideiological and experimental evidence from around the world and also track the continually changing legal and legislative responses. Lots of citations back to the primary source literature. (S-12t)

★★★★★

VEGETARIAN JOURNAL Vol. VII #10 ($18/yr from Baltimore Vegetarians, PO Box 1463, Baltimore, MD 21203): A support and outreach journal for vegetarians and vegans. #10 concentrates on students in high school and college, and the impact of their diet and career choices on themselves and the worlds. There's a real nice piece from Mark Rifkin on how to cope with the non-vegetarian co-worker. (S-14)

★★★★★

VENCEREMOS #3 ($20/yr from PO Box 2104, Church St. Stn., New York, NY 10008): The English-language version of the newspaper of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front of El Salvador, better known as the FMLN. Not surprisingly, it's full of stuff on how they're winning the war, notes on their military and political successes, and commentary on the corruptness of the Duarte regime. A chance to observe one view of a revolution in action. (S-24t)

★★★★★

VETERANS FOR PEACE JOURNAL #7 ($2 from PO Box 3881, Portland, ME 04104): Rapidly-expanding magazine from a rapidly-growing group of men and women who've seen war and would rather not see it again. They're now calling for the international abolition of war, rather than merely specific ceasefires. They're also active in Central America, trying to bring help to those our country's actions are adversely affecting. (S-24t)

★★★★★

VICE VERSA Vol. III #II ($8/yr from Jean Lyons, PO Box 10432, Chicago, IL 60610-0432): A literary "zine of the times". Well, the times are confusing, and much of this stuff is rather oblique, so it fits well. Bare themes of living in a clickstop freezeframe city recur here, along with confused religion and sexuality and other modern dilemmas, thanks to contributors like Willie Smith, Hakim Bey, and M. Schafer. (D-39t)

★★★★★

VICTOR'S MAILBAG #1 (50¢ from Victor Gates, 552 Lancelot Dr., North Salt Lake, UT 84054): Lots of tiny-print letters of comment on Victor's minicomics **THE GEEP** and **LIFE COMICS & STORIES**. A lot of small-comics names check in here: Liam Brooks, Carole Sobocinski, Jim conatser, Andrew Roller, and a dozen or so more. A good way to get an idea of the friendliness of this particular publishing realm. (M-20r)

★★★★★

VICTORY MUSIC REVIEW Vol. 13 #12 ($15/yr from PO Box 7515, Bonney Lake, WA 98390): Music coverage for non-punks. This runs from jazz to children's to Irish to ethnic to women's to Dixie to a bunch of other things. They feature one performer at length each month — in #12 it's guitarist Rick Ruskin — and review a batch of LPs, as well as providing an extensive calendar of local music. (S-32t)

★★★★★

VIDEO DRIVE-IN #16 ($1 from Herb Shrader, PO Box 32313, Columbus, OH 45232): That ought to get you a few issues, depending on what Herb does with the price of this somewhat infrequent sleaze-film roundup. #16 is mostly a sex and religion issue, with a review of the Devil in Miss Jones series and a look at something called The Sexorcist. John Holmes and Traci Lords also come in for some notice. (HL-8r)

★★★★★

VIDEO VOICE #9 ($3.65 from Timothy Paxton, MPO Box 67, Oberlin, OH 44074-0067): A video and cinema zine that does not concentrate solely on the marginal, the bizarre, and the gore. Instead Tim and his staff review selected current releases (Hairspray made the cover of this issue) as well as oldies and re-releases like The Mancurian Candidate. On the other hand, they also get into the cheesy stuff: there's reviews by Dave Szurek and an interview with Michael Weldon in this issue also. (S-24)

★★★★★

THE VILLAGE NOIZE #6 ($1 from Eric Wielander, 48-54 213 St., Bayside, NY 11364): This one took a while, but that's because Eric didn't want to compromise; it's even on heavy stock instead of newsprint. Inside you get music coverage from a variety of angles: Rollins interview, metal record review column, Schooly D interview, and more. The record reviews are pretty good and All make some intelligent noises in their interview. Nice layout too. (S-28t)

★★★★★

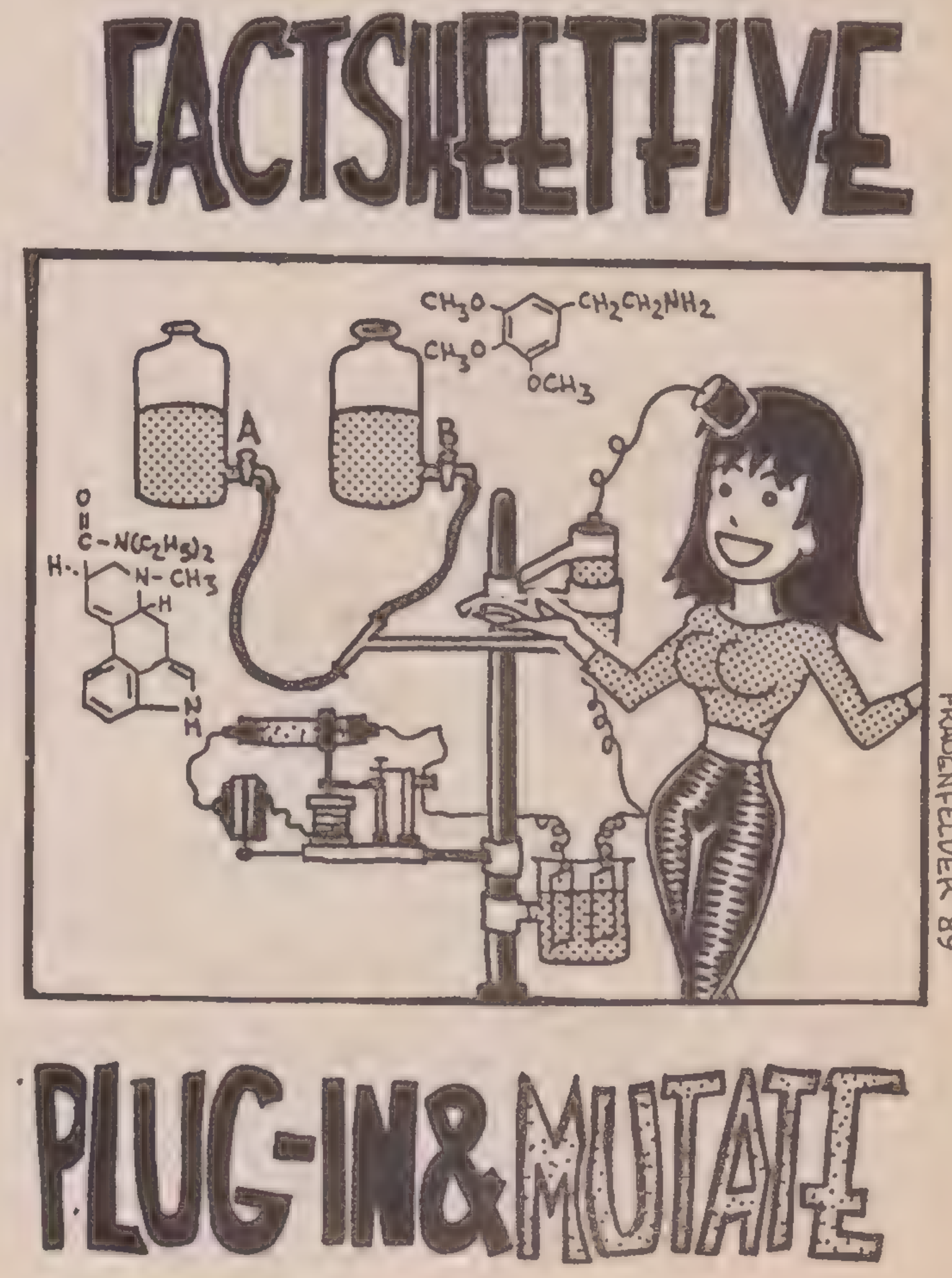
VIRGINIA LIBERTY Vol. 4 #5 ($10/6 issues from LPVA, PO Box 28263, Richmond, VA 23228): The tabloid of the Virginia state Libertarian Party. #5 came out early this fall, and so naturally is devoted largely to the Ron Paul presidential campaign. One nice touch, which I haven't seen elsewhere, is a condensed version of the entire LP platform — a handy reference. (T-8t)

★★★★★

VIRGIN MEAT #6-7 (50¢ from 5247 W. L-10, Quartz Hill, CA 93536): This one started out in the music world but has slowly progressed to being sort of a place for gothic literature. They stake out a wide area centered on traditional vampires and so on, to the point of leading off #6 with a curious tale of lust and drugs. A few record and zine reviews still lurk in the back, though by #7 the lyrical and story emphasis is even stronger & more shuddery. (D-16r)

★★★★★

THE VOICE OF LIBERTY ($1 (?) from 692 Sunnybrook Dr., Decatur, GA 30033): A collection of bizarre rants from the far right wing. Most of this issue is devoted to "Michael Unmasked", a long-running smear of Dukakis. There's also information on all the Russian superweapons that are going to blow up our atomic power plants from a distance, and how the commies



are putting fluoride in our water. Somewhat confused, to say the least. (S-14)

★★★★★

THE VOICE OF ZEWAM #8 ($1.75 from Brendan Donegan, PO Box 196, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522): Though revolving around the life and works of Zewam Amola, this has actually developed into a place for the stranger cutting-edge writers to place works. don Webb, Conger Beasley, Jr., Richard Kostelanetz, Mike Miskowski and Edward Mycue are among the talents represented here. Overall there is a spacey, dreamy feeling to the work, heightened by the excerpts from Amola's works. (S-28)

★★★★★

VOICES FROM SPIRIT Vol. 2 #6-7 ($4/6 issues from Rev. Gerald Polley, PO Box 5155, Ellsworth, ME 04605): A zine from the fringes of psychism. Polley and company are "spiritists", which seems to mean the same as "channelers", since they publish interviews with great dead people. #6 has a talk with W.C. Fields plus some questions answered by Brigham Young and Joan of Arc. In #7 Mae West speaks out, and live psychic Herb Dewey describes some of his own history. (S-8r)

★★★★★

VOID #9 ($2 from J.J. Haws, 208 Catalpa Rd., Lexington, KY 40502): A strangely psychedelic, underground intellectual romp through the world, or at least the interesting parts of it. Part underground comic, part stoned philosophy, and part marginal rebellion. VOID is another place you can catch the likes of Bob Black, Hakim Bey, and other strange folks. J.J. has no overt purpose here, but he seem to be having fun subverting the world. (S-24)

★★★★★

VOID-POST #2 (50¢ (?) from PO Box 19427, Minneapolis, MN 55419): This is apparently a newsletter attached to Little City in Space, an alternative radio show that plays in Minneapolis. They're into oddball music, recreating a forgotten past, and having a good time. (S-6t)

★★★★★

VOLE ADVENTURES ADVENTURE ANTHOLOGY (75¢ from John Porcellino, 1954 Brookside Ln., Hoffman Estates, IL 60194): A collection of comics, drawings, prose and poetry based on real life, whether that be a dead pet mouse, the agony of making choices, or feeding the sparrows. Some pages are reduced to near-illegibility, but other than that, this is a nice thoughtful booklet. (D-12)

★★★★★

THE VOLUNTARYIST #30 ($3 from PO Box 1275, Gramling, SC 29348): A publication for those who can do without the government but want to do so by ethical means. Whether you call them voluntaryists, libertarians, or anarchists, they've got some of the same ideas. This issue looks at things like the unconstitutionality of the Constitution, the "justification" for treasona nd sedition laws, and the subversive parts of Aesop's fables. Quite thoughtful. (S-8t)

★★★★★

VOODOO CHILD #14 ($10/yr from JIMI, PO Box 374, Des Plaines, IL 60016): A zine dedicated to the memory and music of Jimi Hendrix, who even 18 years after his death is grossing about $4 million a year. They cover new releases, both authorized and bootleg, musicians who were associated with Jimi, and related news. #14 includes the story of asttempts to memorialize him in his home town of Seattle. (S-8t)

★★★★★

WAITING FOR A CALL OR EVENT ($2 from Shred of Dignity, 370 Turk St. #227, San Francisco, CA 94102): This is almost embarassing to read, the private chronicles of a group house full of punks out in San Francisco. Apparently they leave this typewriter lying around and use it for arguments, messages to one another, profanity, deep thoughts, and general spouting off. Well, this is just what came off that typer, together with some building code violation notices and photos and other cool stuff. (S-48)

★★★★★

WAJLEMAC #5 ($1 from PO Box 312, Larkspur, CA 94939): Well, I've finally found someone else who reviews t-shirts and role-playing games, even if they are mostly a music zine. They're also pretty heavy into comics and Japanimation, this being the "comic books crossover" issue. On the musical side, they feature No Fraud, Negazione, and Dissent, as well as a pile of reviews, scene reports and columns. A good value for your fanzine dollar. (S-72r)

★★★★★

W.A.M.M. Vol. 7 #4 ($25/yr from 3255 Hennepin Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55408): The newsletter of Women Against Military Madness. This anti-war group seems to be functioning mostly as a support and networking source. They keep track of what a lot of other groups are doing, publish a calendar of events, and bits of news from the peace movement. (S-8t)

★★★★★

THE WASHINGTON REPORT ON MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS Vol. VII #7-9 ($2 deom American Educational Trust, PO Box 53062, Washington, DC 20009): A monthly roudup of news from the Mideast, with special attention to Palestinians but coverage of a lot more than that. They're concerned to show Israel exercising undue political influence in the US as well. #9 has lots and lots on the recent diplomatic developments involving the PLO, including much detail that doesn't show up in the papers around here. (S-52t)

★★★★★

WAW SOURCE #04-05 ($1.50 from Wayne A. Wilson, PO Box 95, Mustang, OK 73064): A newsletter of art — and other things. Wayne is a freelance artist, and he spends a few pages displaying works for sale. But there are also comments from readers, short mysteries, recipes, comics, mazes and more in each issue. Wayne's trying to build a family from subscribers, and so welcomes submissions on most any subject. (D-20)

★★★★★

WDC PERIOD Vol. 1 #17 ($2 from Gordon Ornelas, 1830 Irving St. NW, Washington, DC 20010): This music and stuff tabloid is back to its old format, starting with a really gross cover and continuing through suggestions on committing suicide, metal records, and animal sex. There's also all manner of reviews and creativity — including a poetry editor who threatens to not print bad poems (a small press first?). Cheerfully irreverent, from Japanese comics to Swans records, a definite cultural Mecca in an otherwise largely barren city. (T-48t)

★★★★★

WE ARE THE WEIRD Vol. 4 #1 ($6/6 issues from Paladin Corp., PO Box 33, Dallas, TX 75221): A place for fans of Joe Bob Briggs, infamous drive-in movie critic — because he's the center of attention here. Reports on nutty readers, previews of upcoming horrible movies, letters with snide replies, and other down-home stuff make up most of the action. (T-8t)

★★★★★

WE THE PEOPLE #35-36 ($2 from Michael Wolff, PO Box 704, South Houston, TX 77587-0704): A politically-oriented amateur press association. They have an interesting mix of members, ranging from anarchist to Nazi and including liberal, conservative and green viewpoints. Controversy rages on about everything from abortions to Ollie North, with some fictional relief provided by Jim Downard's alternate-universe stories. (S-89)

★★★★★

WET PAINT #23 ($3 from Jeff Smith, 2106 Tradewind Dr. #182, Mesquite, TX 75150): Densely-packed mag of movie reviews and criticism. While they do cover a certain amount of gory mayhem, they also get into deeper articles on films like the imported "4 Flies on Grey Velvet" and the relatively mainstream "Monkey Shines". This issue also reviews a bunch of other movie zines, prints a batch of letters, and looks at cannibalism in European gore films. (S-26r)

★★★★★

WHAT WAVE #16 ($5 from 17 Erie Ave., London, ONT N6J 1H9, CANADA): With a color cover and a 4-song *vinyl* EP (Legend Killers, Flying Squad, Captain Scarlet & the Mysterons, Mongrols) included, this one is getting more impressive all the time. it's a massive tome of garage music, with the occasional classic artist (show review of Jerry Lee Lewis this issue) and lots of new folks: Marshmallow Overcoat, Vindicators, Cynics, and lots more. There's also comics and zine reviews, and local scene notes. (S-58r)

★★★★★

WHAT'S WHAT #8 ($1 from Marc, 350 Cannady Ct., Atlanta, GA 30350): Mostly interviews with bands passing through: They Might Be Giants, Game Theory, Camper Van Beethoven. Marc also gets in a page of record reviews and some word association from They Might Be Giants. A pretty small effort, but the conversations are nice. (S-10)

★★★★★

WHO CARES ABOUT APATHY? #0 (25¢ stamp from 93 Bellevue Ave., Warwick, RI 02888): A real short music zine — billing itself as the "prototype" issue, so it may grow. A few words with Cancerous Growth on the front, a few with White Flag on the back, and some photocopied photos make up the zine. (S-2)

★★★★★

WHOLE EARTH REVIEW #60-61 ($20/4 issues from PO Box 38, Sausalito, CA 94966): Everyone knows about this lichpin of the counterculture, I hope. If not, read an issue and see if their mix of articles and reviews (of tools and things as well as books and magazines) agree with you. #60 is a mixed bag: R. Crumb's sketchbooks, computer viruses, island ecology, and a long reminiscence on The Farm, another institution from the sixties. #61 is the twentieth anniversary issue. I used far more time than I had planned reading the short essays from about 100 thoughtful folks on the past twenty years and the next twenty. Inspiring stuff, even if lots of them do recognize we're real close to being in the soup. (S-144t)

★★★★★

WIDE AWAKE #1 ($1 from PO Box 116805, Carrollton, TX 75011): A SubbGenius-inspired little rag that does not seem to have a firm grasp of purpose. The best part here is the story about the kid who goes psychotic from overexposure to Sesame Street, though the idea for dealing with vending machines isn't bad either. (S-5)

★★★★★

THE WILD RAG #6-9 ($3 from 2207 W. Whittier Blvd., Montebello, CA 90640): A metal-oriented music zine that is mainly made up of interviews and large-scale photos (right up to centerfold posters). They get a dozen or so bands in each issue, along with scene reports and editorials on the state of metal today. #6 was a special issue on L.A.'s club and underground bands. The most recent issue, #9, includes Nuclear Assault, Rage, Sacred Reich, Liege Lord, and many more. (S-60)

★★★★★

WILMINGTON COLLEGE PEACE RESOURCE CENTER NEWSLETTER Winter 1988-89 (Donation from Pyle Center, Box 1183, Wilmington, OH 45177): The PRC is active in providing a clearing house for peace resources, with some focus on their own Hiroshima/Nagasaki

Memorial Collection. They rent videotapes and sell book, and the newsletter also provides contact information for other groups in the peace movement. (S-6t)

★★★★★

WIND Vol. 18 #63 ($2.50 from RFD Route-1, Box 809K, Pikeville, KY 41501): A fat digest of prose and poetry edited by Quentin Howard. The works here tend to come from, or at least focus on, the heartland, the backwoods, and the traditional cultures of America. Sometimes the view is a bit skewed, as with stories from Don Webb and Dennis Vannatta in this issue, but often the sketches seem true to life. Poetry from Hugh Walker and Dwight Humphries stands out in this issue also. Lots to choose from. (D-118t)

★★★★★

WINDOW Vol. 4 #6-8 ($1 from 7 S. 6th St. #206, Terre Haute, IN 47807): This alternative tabloid was formerly **TUNNEL TIMES**, but they've changed their name as part of an image overhaul, seeking tobecome more useful to the community. #7 sports stories on a couple of city landmarks, bar ratings, and an investigation of the intellectual property agreement at nearby Rose-Hulman. Music and politics also rear their heads inside. #8 has a lot of material bearing on a controversial issue (the proposed location of a BASF plant and dump in town) — presented in a very professional and balanced way. (T-16t)

★★★★★

WINGSPAN Autumn 1988 (Donation from The Advantage Group, 220 Broadway #204, Lynnfield, MA 01940): A tabloid for the growing men's movement which is trying to go beyond simple post-feminism towards a system where people and nature all survive in harmony. There is a spiritual cast to this, but it's not heavily preachy, more part of an ongoing exploration. No subscription fee, but funded by those who feel it's worth paying for. (T-12)

★★★★★

WIRE Vol. 7 #3 ($1 (?) from KCMU, Seattle, WA 98195): The program guide for this independent radio station. Not surprisingly, they concentrate on music, with this issue featuring Billy Bragg, Jonathan Richman, and Leonard Cohen. There's also an article on Seattle culture and one on trade names and trademarks. (S-16t)

★★★★★

WITNESS TO THE BIZARRE #2 ($4 from Melinda Jaeb, PO Box 2825, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603): Whether by coincidence or design, several of the stories in this zine of horror and fantasy feature little people — but in only one case are they the friendly elves of your childhood. Tom Raley's "Cat Burglar" introduces us to life on the small side in unpleasant circumstances, while Brian Mullen's "The Micro Brigade" is downright bloodthirsty. There are some other interesting twists here in short yarns, presented without illustrations in order to allow the maximum scope for verbal surprise. (D-48)

★★★★★

THE WITTENBURG DOOR #101 ($3 from 1224 Greenfield Dr., El Cajon, CA 92021): Apparently this is meant to be a journal of Christian humor. Problem is, I didn't find much of it very funny. Either this is because I am insufficiently Christian to get the jokes, or they are insufficiently sensitive to feminist ideas to avoid sounding like misogynistic chauvinist assholes, take your pick. Pretty rude to other religions too. (S-32)

★★★★★

WONDERFUL RHYTHMS MAGAZINE #1 ($3 from Jacob Hansen, Vogasvej 3 Vejrup, 6740 Bramming, DENMARK): Don't let the name fool you as this covers thrash and hardcore primarily. They focus on Scnadinavian groups with an all-interview format (claiming record reviews are boring) but do get to Germany and even to the US with talks with AOD and Necrophagia. More esoteric bands interviews include Soothsayer, Pedifile, Kazjurol, and Emils. (A4-28r)

★★★★★

WOO-WOO #5 ($1 from 607 E. Dayton, Madison, WI 53703): A collection of collages of images and headlines, seeking to get at the roots of the problems of the world. Brent adds cryptic explanations to some of these pieces while letting others speak for themselves. The result is a portrait of a terrifyingly media-driven society. (S-24)

★★★★★

THE WRENCHING DEBATE GAZETTE #4-6 ($1 (?) from Richard Grossman, 1801 Connecticut Ave. NW, 2nd Fl., Washington, DC 20009): Publisher Grossman is part of a network of people concerned with cleaning up the environment by stopping toxic waste. It's a grassroots bunch, currently starting to explore ways to combine "analysis with action". It looks like long-term civil disobedience may be the route they take, but it's not too late to get involved in the decisionmaking process. (S-8)

★★★★★

WRESTLING OBSERVER NEWSLETTER 10/28/88-1/16/89 ($5/4 issues from Dave Meltzer, PO Box 1228, Campbell, CA 95009-1228): News and views from the pro wrestling world. The 10/28 issue is extra large, with news from a recent convention of wrestling fans. 11/14 includes news of a major sale (of World Class wrestling) and early reviews of the Roddy Piper movie "They live". 11/21 includes a listing of other wrestling zines for you networkers. 12/19 has heavy coverage of the bizarre question of whether Kerry Von Erich is missing a foot. 1/2 looks at the year just past and the year to come. (S-10r)

★★★★★

WRITER'S EXCHANGE #10 ($6/4 issues from PO Box 394, Society Hill, SC 29593): A real small thing for beginning writers. They pack in a poetry contest, a few reviews (including some of indie music) and a roundup of half-a-dozen markets, together with some random news from the small press scene. (D-8)

★★★★★

XCURRZIONS #9 (99¢ from Jane Poe, 991 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94105): Wild and woozy short bursts of prose form Jane and the equally enigmatic Mina. Plot loses out to dream imagery and disjointed bursts of beauty. The drawings don't make it any clearer. Like viewing the world through a kaleidoscope while peaking. (D-24)

★★★★★

YANKEE RIPPER #1 (SASE (?) from 161 Stratford Rd., New Britain, CT 06053): A new skatezine that is skateboarding first, music second. Lots of pics of local spots to skate (and even a few with freestyle bikers on them), only a bit marred by poor printing, are followed by a Bold interview and a few record and zine reviews. (D-16)

★★★★★

Y DDRAIG GOCH #XXVI (2 IRCs or so from Iain D. Bowen, 2 Elderberry Close, Norton, STOURBRIDGE, West Midlands, ENGLAND): It's hard to imagine any of my U.S. readers being interested in this, but I know there are some strange folks out there so what the heck. This is a zine for people to play wargames by mail, with Iain and a few other people adjudiciating the results of moves. The major focus seems to be on Diplomacy (the classic), with some folks in some sort of football match and En Garde, War of the Roses and other things going on in odd corners. (A4-32)

★★★★★

YELLOW SILK #27 ($5 from PO Box 6374, Albany, CA 94706): It's nice to know there's such a fine magazine in the other Albany; it gives me hope. YS is a magazine of erotica in poetry, prose and other media — like Stephen John Phillips' rich black and white photography in #27. I was also much taken by Lynn Luria-Sukenick's "Do You Know the Facts of Life", a series of ruminations disguised as a quiz on sexuality and sensuality. (S-52t)

★★★★★

YIPES #17 ($1.25 from Ken Cousino, PO Box 173, Temperance, MI 48182-0173): A punk zine that spreads out beyond the music to include the entire scene. There's an essay here about getting assaulted by skinheads, and one about the failure of the US Constitution, which define the range of stuff covered. Also of course there are show and music reviews, an MIA interview, bits of poetry and lots of harsh art. (S-22)

★★★★★

YOUNG ANARCHIST #1 (50¢ & a stamp from Max, 511 S. 12th, Redmond, OR 97756): The marvelous thing about this anarchist zine is that Max, stuck in a small town with overbearing parents, amanged to get it out at all. The first issue reprints some classic stuff from Emma Goldman and John Henry Mackay and pleads for contact with other anarchists out there somewhere. It's also livened up by some comics and reviews. (D-14)

★★★★★

YOUR FLESH #14 ($3.50 from PO Box 2683, Loop Stn., Minneapolis, MN 55402): A big hunk of erudite record reviewing from a batch of folks who know where they're coming from as far as the darker sides of rock and punk. Featured bands include Death of Samantha, Killdozer, and Husker Du; there's also Ferret art and a talk with madman Joe Coleman. A solid product, worth the long waits for its appearance. (S-72t)

★★★★★

ZAMIZDAT TRADE JOURNAL #5 ($1.50 from 550 College Ave., Boulder, CO 80302): A journal of underground music and cassette culture. They have contact information on 80 or so artists, zines, and other interested folks (in non-paragraphed microprint for you eyestrain fans) and some feature essays and reviews. Included are Robin James and the history of Cassette Mythos and the final issue of **AUDIOPHILE/ARTITUDE** magazine. (S-16t)

★★★★★

ZAP #6-8 (3.50DM from M. Arndt, Schutzenstr. 6, 6650 Homburg, WEST GERMANY): A pretty big and still growing German-language zine of "Hardcore • Punk • Underground" music. #6 includes a flexidisc from The Rest of the Boys, whose album is reviewed below, as well as the usual pile of features. #7 includes MDC, Fugazi, Upright Citizens and lots more, together with photos and social commentary. SNFU and Henry Rollins headline in #8. (A4-54t)

★★★★★

ZEEEEEN! #1-2 (A pile of IRCs from Stan Emmerson, 84 McCartin St., Leongatha, Victoria 3953, AUSTRALIA): Except for some choice bits of language this music zine could've come from most small towns in the US. Leongatha is apparently close enough to Melbourne to know the state of the scene there but far enough away to depend more on record reviews than interviews. There's some nice stuff on the state of the scene, as well as basic instructions for becoming a spotty-faced comics collector. #2 has got a longish Nick Cave interview, a frontal attack on hackneyed rock-critic writing and a confusing "Uglystupidman" stick-figure comic. (A4-20t)

★★★★★

ZENDIK FARM ARTS COMMUNE ($10/yr from Cary Roberts, 1431 Tierra Del Sol Rd., Boulevard, CA 92005): If there's an issue number on the psychedelic cover I can't find it. This comes from a wild-sounding commune down by the Mexican border, where about 40 people are trying to find a better future on their organic, largely independent farm. The magazine is a combination of philosophy, real counterculture, ecology and weirdness. There's lots of heavy indictments of money and an interview with Genesis P. Orridge here, among much else. I might quarrel with their badmouthing of anarchy but that's a minor point. Pretty inspiring, really. (S-54)

★★★★★

ZERO HOUR CASSETTEZINE HALF-HOUR #5 ($1 *CASH/Stamps* from Josh, 32 Chestnut Hill, Greenfield, MA 01301): An audio magazine. This issue is not real great, marred by poor recording on most everything; crank it up. The best bet here is the parable of the "Jello Fish Society", written by Thomas and read by Josh. Other contents include on the scene reporting from some housing project and an awful piece called "You Are God" that's maddeningly repetitious. Looking for political stuff for next December's edition. (tape)

★★★★★

ZETA MAGAZINE Oct. 1988 ($3 from 116 St. Botolph St., Boston, MA 02115-9979): A gargantuan collection of writings from the intellectual left. There are plenty of familiar names and topics here: Central America, the international plight of gays and lesbians, "Pop Music and the Left", reviews, news and more. It's too much to swallow all in one lump, and perhaps too stodgy and thoughtful for some, but there's a lot of good stuff here waiting to be dug out. (S-112t)

★★★★★

ZIGGURAT BOYS ($2 from Thom Metzger, PO Box 25193, Rochester, NY 14625): A portfolio of trading cards of key figures behind the mystic lore of Ziggurat. These bits of paper will give you the lowdown on such figures as Lon Chaney Jr., Sid Vicious, Rondo Hatton and Benito Mussolini, as well as dropping guarded hints to point the way to the true conspiracy. (M-14)

★★★★★

Z MISCELLANEOUS Vol. 2 #5 ($4 from PO Box 20041, New York, NY 10028): The main problem with the literary zine is that there's just too much of it, and no indication of what any particular piece is good for. The no-frills approach, stark type on heavy white paper, leaves it all jumbled together, and so while the poetry of an Alan Catlin or the writing of a Tom Miller Juvik may affect one, it's too soon lost in the next brief moment. (S-116)

Movers and Shakers

ACTION LINKAGE

Action Linkage is a network of people interested in building a better world, supported entirely by membership dues, assessed annually. Presently these dues are set at $50/year, though people who can't afford that are asked to pay what they can afford. That fee includes a $5 credit towards the many-to-many of your choice, and a subscription to the **ACTION LINKAGE NETWORKER**, which I have been reviewing in FF for some time now. The business of Action Linkage is largely conducted through the many-to-manys, which are open forums for discussion on particular topics which are assembled rather than edited — an outgrowth of the amateur press associations of SF fandom and other groups. Though there is a central office to contact about joining (5825 Telegraph Ave. #45, Oakland, CA 94609), there really isn't a center to this decentralized group. In searching for a way to tell the story of Action Linkage, and to introduce you to their constellation of interests, it seemed best to invite the coordinators of the many-to-manys to explain their own part of the picture.

Before that, though, a word on the philosophy behind M2Ms, and indeed, the spirit behind Action Linkage. This is well expressed in the **AGREEMENTS OF THE OPEN SPACE**, which Ann Weiser write in 1984 (postcard copies are available at $3 for 25). Here they are:

(1) We agree to experience each other as unique and as more than the sum of our roles and affiliations.

(2) We agree to hear what each person has to say as their own legitimate concern, not to need them to see things our way, nor to feel pressed to change our opinions because of theirs.

(3) We agree to listen non-judgmentally and caringly to what is behind a person's words as well as the words themselves, and to have compassion for the feelings, beliefs, and experiences that may have led them to say what they're saying.

(4) We agree to operate in the spirit that no one has the exclusive right answer, but everyone is part of the answer. So our discussions are not aimed at determining who is right, but to make sure that all points of view are heard.

(5) We agree to see disagreement, not as an unpleasant breach to be covered up or healed, but as a welcome manifestation of our diversity. We see that differences are necessary on the way to a more comprehensive view that includes possibilities none of us had to start with.

(6) We agree to see each person as "in process", changing and growing, and to expect to see the person again but not necessarily the same problems or struggles again.

(7) We agree to honor and to listen to the parts in ourselves and others that are not yet clear.

(8) We agree to upport each other in the difficult task of staying with the questions when the answers aren't there yet, of staying with the ambiguity and uncertainty when the clarity isn't there yet.

As the editor of the Action Linkage M2M on Religion, Spirituality, and Values, I collect writings from our membership each month, then photocopy and mail a packet of everyone's contributions back to the full group on the 15th of each month, together with my own reflections on the previous month's contributions.

This particular M2M has been active for at least four years, and I have edited it for the last year and a half. Our membership fluctuates between 30 and 40 members, of whom about half contribute in any given month. Currently, we have about an equal number of men and women, who represent viewpoints from many spiritual traditions. Our ages range from the late twenties into the eighties. Members share all kinds of things, from short poems, to art, to succinct acerbic opinions, to long treatises on philosophical issues.

Generally, I encourage two pages per member per month. The ongoing genesis of the M2M is for a member to propose a question, issue or topic, and seek response from others. If others find the issue challenging, we're off and running. Recent issues have included thoughts on our spiritual relationship with the Earth; our experiences with death and dying; the mythic images, or symbols, which we find meaningful; the relationship between reflection and action; and how our values affect our decision-making when faced with moral dilemmas. I find the multilogue to be particularly helpful in my own life, because I am seeking to grow beyond a more or less traditionalWestern spirtual/religious lifestyle, to make friends who are also growing and stretching, and to challenge myself in an increasingly connected way. Quite often, members will share their reflections on a book, tape, movie, or play that has been particularly meaningful to them. We welcome new members, and I use the "Agreements of the Open Space" as my editing guideline.

—Steve Brown
Editor, Religion, Spirituality, and Values M2M

For me Action Linkage is 95% the multilogue system guided by the "Agreements of the Open Space." Ten years ago I became interested in cross-fertilizing the producer cooperative with the community (Greek polis). Progress was slow until I found Action Linkage and the M2M system. Next month we start our fifth year of M2M facilitating. The exchange of ideas and information (book titles, newsletters, journals) has been a goldmine for me.

Our search for "cooperative community" has led us to the recognition that we have to have some idea of what our worldview/belief system is before we can sketch out what small scale systems might help in our evolution to a better world. The latest key thought comes to us from a long time member, Elisabeth Jones: "...the organization, the institution, and the nation are group structures that we need to move beyond. As I see it, what's wrong with the structure is approximately what's wrong with human beings — greed, anger, defensiveness, anxiety, and lust for power. They have the very same emotional proclivities as human beings do and therefore the same problems writ large."

The Cooperatives and Community M2M now has over 2200 pages of this material from approximately 50 members, The active membership has averaged around 25 at any one time. A full set of this M2M is in the Contemporary Culture Collection of Temple University Library in Philadelphia. The main tension in this M2M is over discussion versus doing a physical project. I suspect this runs roughly along age levels, with use retirees or near to it being more contemplative. In any event the intellectual stimulation is almost too much at times. I wouldn't have it any other way.

I believe the special feature of the M2M system is that it puts us in touch with likeminded people that we would have had difficulty in finding locally. In addition, and this may be the most important, encouraged by the Agreements of the Open Space, we can feel very free to say what's really on our minds without fear of meaningful reprisal. We are understood to be speaking from where we are on our journey and that is OK in this environment. We're not attacking the other guy, nor s/he us. It's just where we're at, at the moment. I can't express how empowering and educational this has been for me.

—Bill Holden
Editor, Cooperatives and Community M2M

I see Action Linkage as a "people's think tank." A place (Open Space) where people from very different traditions can exchange ideas, feelings, and values with the aim of seeking synthesis and complementarity. The M2M is the basic entry vehicle for active participation with Task Groups and Face-to-Face meetings as outgrowths of shared interests and concerns.

—Paul Krumm
member of Strategy Task Group

When I joined Action Linkage in 1983, I was asked for feedback on a draft of the soon-to-be-published booklet, **AT THE CROSSROADS**. That booklet did a good job of summarizing a holistic view of fundamental social changes in process then and now. It identified the many issues in dispute and pointed out their interconnectedness, but it was rather vague about what we could do to resolve them. Robert Theobald's 1987 book **THE RAPIDS OF CHANGE** helped to indicate ways we could think and act constructively about the multiple issues. But it only began to point the way, One problem with the multi-issue focus is how to do anything about the interconnected problems. It's the classic "can of worms" dilemma. Out answer has been two-fold: 1) an emphasis on transformational processes that can be applied to any issue by anyone, and 2) an emphasis on encouraging local action on selected specifics, keeping in mind the larger context. Those transformational processes include open space, personal growth, conflict resolution, futuring and education.

Action Linkage has become a networking organization that links individuals who we hope are involved in some local action. That work can be directed toward any meaningful use.

I facilitate the Community/Regional M2M and participate in four other multilogues or task groups. I also coordinte a local Action Linkage discussion group that meets monthly.

In support of the importance of local action int he concept of Action Linkage, we are changing the name of the Community Regional M2M to Local Action. Under this more sharply-defined focus, we hope to compile and disseminate how-to-do-it information that members can apply to get things done in their localities.

In addition to what I have already mentioned, my own local action includes being involved with teaching and consultation in conflict resolution, assisting networking between local peace and social justice groups, doing personal growth facilitation, and counseling.

—Jack Tiffany
Editor, Community/Regional M2M

I am the editor of the Action Linkage Designing New Civilizations M2M, and we are doing just that...designing new civilizations that are many times more peaceful, "intelligent", and enlightened than the present civilization. We have prduced a trilogy of "xerox-press" books from the M2M members' letters and essays, and we are offering them for sale for $10 each plus postage. Similarly, we have also produced a book in the Action Linkage task group on Justice in the New Civ. All four books will be used as on-going design documents as well as correspondence courses for an outreach program to "re-educate" persons who are presently or formerly incarcerated.

—Leon Vickman
Editor, Designing New Civilizations M2M

I became editor of the Economics M2M about a year ago because I realized a number of years ago that a great shift was occurring, and that shift would increasingly involve every person on this planet at an individual level. It became increasingly apparent to me that economics could no longer be viewed simply as the allocation of scarcity, nor could it be a study to determine what each person should get. As each person's life, thanks to the constant increase of worldwide communications, becomes more involved with every other individual's life, there must be ways in which the full range of our personal hopes, our beliefs, our cares, our joys, and our pain, can be shared in a meaningful way with others. I am coming to increasingly realize that economics can no longer be measured in terms of goods and services rendered for profit on an expanding marketplace, but must increasingly come to embody everything that we are. Only by helping to work toward this goal can I help all others to realize that they are of value, and not that they must alienate themselves from others in order to "make money."

This, however, is a very big goal, and requires being able to think in a dualistic fashion, trying to see all sides and understand how a value system can emerge that empowers all of us in this way. Economics is us, what we believe, what we hope for, the full spectrum of all that we are, and I will continue to work in whatever capacity helps others realize this.

—R.S. Haulk
Editor, Economics M2M

Action Linkage began as an information-sharing network that grew up around its founder, Robert Theobald. At its heart, the network's members communicate with each other through Many-to-Manys, or Multilogues, on diverse aspects of a more humane, sustainable future. Recently, the organization has added on to the strong idea-sharing, think-tank nature of the Many-to-Manys, and emphasized being a source of empowermewnt and support.

This new direction was sparked by the powerful in-person connections made at the annual Face-To-Face gatherings of Action Linkage, and recently, at Regional Gatherings around the country. When people of very different backgrounds, trainings, and upbringings come together with the understanding that they can be heard without judgement, in a process founded on respect and trust in the dynamics of the whole group, some very real steps have been made beyond abstract ideas, and toward a more humane future.

—Scott Anderson
Coordinator, Media Task Group

As founder of Action Linkage, I'm very excited by the energy which is emerging in our non-organization, We have discovered that we are a "place" where healthy people can inter-relate on a face-to-face and by-mail basis. We accept that the world has changed fundamentally but that it is possible for people to find out what they should be doing separately and together. We're right for people who are non-joiners but who would nevertheless like to be associated with others who share the same concerns and want to dream larger dreams.

—Robert Theobald
Founder

The Career Options M2M is a small group of ten which holds discussions relating to career options, including educational alternatives and potential business opportunities. We also have a six page resources list compiled by Lisa Schaeffer, one of our members.

In 1988, discussion centered around a potential jobs data base for Action Linkage members. Current topics include: 1) the proposed role of a clearinghouse for information services and products about career options (expansion of current resources list) and 2) the use of a career planning and development evaluation instrument to translate desires, preferences, abilities and competencies into occupational terms. I have obtained the instrument and if CO-M2M members wish, they may evaluate themselves regarding their occupational strengths and weaknesses. The instrument could also be provided by CO-M2M as a mail service, providing revenue back to Action Linkage. An additional topic I intend to propose is that of cottage industry employment.

—Grace Smith
Editor, Career Options M2M

I am the editor of the Computer Based Knowledge System M2M. The purpose of this M2M is to develop a system which provides quick and easy access to information of particular interest to Action Linkage members. This can be simple, concrete information related to the mechanics of Action Linkage or it can be information helpful to personal or social transformation.

We currently visualize the result to be an organized system of people, publications, and (computer) data bases. Some of the needed information will reside within this Action Linkage system. However much will be available from other sources. In the latter case, the Action Linkage system is intended to point the user to the appropriate sources and resources.

The system is clearly "value-based" because we intend to organize and present the information based on our worldview. The system is intended to incorporate a wide variety of viewpoints; the Action Linkage worldview specifically encourages that. But it is "value-based" in that it insures that non-traditional viewpoints are included. It is also value-based in what it regards to be the "burning questions." The selection of "burning questions" to be handled by this particular system is obviously related to the values we are trying to live by in Action Linkage!

This project is very much in the early stages of development. We are currently trying to solidify the "functional objectives."

—Terry Schansman
Editor, Computer Based Knowledge System M2M

I am the coordinator of the Inner Knowing Short Term Task Group. In Action Linkage a focus has been on developing a knowledge system to support us all in going through the "rapids of change". I attempted to get some things about the self as consciousness into the Knowledge System and for a variety of reasons it didn't work. I decided the problem was that a whole new (different) way of seeing and being in the world that was supported by more than the idea itself, was needed. Thus I designated all of our present knowledge as the product of "Outer Knowing" unless some of it might fit the criteria for "Inner Knowing" as follows: Everything is internally and externally consistent with (1) the Earth is a "living" body as the Universe is a "living" vessel; (2) the "building block" of the universe is not material in nature, but "consciousness" and "species consciousness"; (3) everything is in unconditional relationship interconnected oneness process with "everything else", and it is in the "meaning" in/of the relationship out of which the "reality" of the "whole" is created; (4) I am and everything is "a vehicle" of our/its own "species consciousness."

Human beings and their "God(s)" are not the consciousness center of whatever exists, but the "living" Earth and Universe are. Those are the four major premise developments to date. The purpose of the Task Group is to produce documentation sufficient to support an Inner as well as an Outer Knowing Knowledge System.

—Ben Young
Coordinator, Inner Knowing Short Term Task Group

I am the first editor of the new M2M on Mind and Consciousness which we started in October of 1988. The primary purpose of this multilogue is to discuss how we define or interpret human mind and consciousness and what effect these views have on our individual ations and behavior, as well as on society. After only three exchanges (17 members) it is evident that we will have ample opportunity to learn about this important and timely subject from several different viewpoints through our exchange of ideas and information, We are a curious and "open-for-change" group chasing after knowledge of a subject that is crucial and is on the frontier of human thought. A long-term goal of this M2M is to discover practical ways to raise our consciousness to a point which will enable us to see how we can help alter the somewhat destructive course all of life on this planet seems to be on. A secondary one is to map out a system to enlighten our global society about any beneficial discoveries arising from our quest.

—Stuart Nelson
Editor, Mind and Consciousness M2M

I am the Coordinator of Action Linkage, though at a recent Face-to-Face I proposed, not entirely joking, that my title be changed to "Listener." I do my job by listening, as carefully as I can, to the other people in the network. I'm proud to say I'm also the developer of our many-to-many form, out of my experience with sf apas. We are a shared-power, trust-based network. Most of us are idealists, because we believe there are ways that the world could work right for everyone. But we don't know yet what those ways are, so we're mostly living with the question and doing what we can where we are. We're not ideologues; there's nothing we all believe in for sure, except what our network itself implies — that authority over others is a bad idea and that bringing in many voices is a good idea.

—Ann Weiser
Coordinator ("Listener")

I was hired in 1987 to be the part-time Assistant to the Coordinator, Ann Weiser. Ann and I met at the Fourth World's New Economic Symposium in San Francisco in the Fall of 1987, where she was the Facilitator of the Communications Forum.

Action Linkage has proven to be a fascinating study in right human relations. There is true dedication here toward acceptance of diversity and finding likemindedness. With a 50+ age range and representatives from all walks of life, this is a very refreshing change.

I have recently joined the Meaningful Contact M2M where I hope to receive some feedback regarding outreach from Action Linkage to other groups concerned with human (and universal) potential. The M2M process is a very effective way of conferring with many people at once, about one's personal and planetary concerns. The "Agreements of the Open Space" are the foundation for communication between all of the members and have made a very nurturing place to create a New Civilization. I look at Action Linkage as a sort of "communications laboratory" that is courageous enough to experiment with scientific logic and faithful enough to accept, as yet, unsolved glitches in demonstrating wholism.

—Toby Dubes
Asssitant to the Coordinator

For the last nine months I've been the facilitator of Action Linkage's Development Committee. A major concern is to determine how to best involve our members, most of whom (so far) were drawn to Action Linkage by the work of Bob Theobald. Action Linkage promises interactive participion in an "open space" environment. Its Many-to-Manys offer people an opportunity to raise ideas, notions, concepts, models (usually to make a better functioning world), and get feedback. M2Ms are a unique medium to match your perceptions of what's going on in the world with that of others. I say unique because we attempt to accept everyone's perception as valid, since it generally is for them. But I'll let the M2M editors themselves speak to what is happening. My keen interest is in seeing how we develop some of Action Linkage's values/principles, particularly those of power-sharing and responsibility-based decision making.

Since power-sharing implies a non-hierarchical structure, no one "over" someone else to give orders, no one under to take instruction, things get done by members volunteering. The trick is volunteering to do something valuable to members (or the organization), and then fulfilling that commitment. How and what you volunteer is important because whatever it is, it's time — shared with other commitments you've made. We're experimenting with volunteer's "self-contracts" and the notion of picking a "shadow" to monitor your "contract progress". Whenever someone takes on responsibility in Action Linkage a second person, their "shadow", would take on responsibility to support them and help them keep to deadlines, etc. It's a possible way of avoiding the familiar burn-out. Action Linkage is the only organization I know that is tackling power equity issues head-on. Even though they are sill in the formative stage, I find some of Action Linkage's experimental approaches applicable to other organizations of which I am a member, including for example Housing Help Inc. and the Huntington Peace Center.

—Jim Lippke
Facilitator, Development Committee

Finally, so you don't get the idea that Action Linkage is solely concerned with the M2M and other "inreach" activities, here's the prospectus for their latest "outreach" project, which Robert Theobald is now working on intensively:

DYNAMIC BALANCE PARTY

A science-fact process

Were you frustrated by the 1988 election and would you like to find a way to change directions before 1992? You can join the Dynamic Balance Party and work with a group of like-minded people who doubt that either the Democrats or the Republicans are going to catch up with the public unless new patterns are created outside the two parties.

The DBP is based on the believ that there are a new set of issues which many Americans recognize as critically important — notably the environment as well as questions of equity and social justice in a rapidly changing world. It designs a totally new set of cabinet offices which fit conditions at the end of the twentieth century rather than those which existed in the industrial era.

The DBP works in a fundamentally different style than current parties. It sets out the directionn in which it believes that the country needs to move and asks for a mandate rather than manipulating the electorate in order to gain votes. It restructures issues so that they move out of the cliche debate into new ways of thinking which promise creative solutions, Its proposed President is a woman, the cabinet contains several ethnic members and the biographies of the cabinet show that they are no plaster saints,but rather interesting people who have always been mavericks.

The DBP is also designed to challenge existing electoral structures. It will fight for all polls in the continental United States to close at the same time so that the votes of those in the West are not affected by predictions. It will also aim to build a massive movement so that the Presidential check-off on the IRS tax form is controlled by a citizen body and demands certain standards of candidates who want to benefit from it.

[For more information on the DBP, send $3 to Participation Publishers, PO Box 2240, Wickenburg, AZ 85358.]

CURMUDGEON CORNER
BY GARRY DeYOUNG

STEPPING STONES

Most of us are familiar with the idea that we should turn stumbling blocks into stepping stones, that the time to cry is when we must laugh.

I am writing this from Stanwood, Washington, about fifty miles north of Seattle.

I came here to do environmental research and to seek admission to the graduate school of education at the University of Washington, and to be in an area where I thought I would meet some other Atheists.

I have engaged in the environmental research, and mind you, I am speaking of the larger environment, not just the natural, physical environment. I am speaking as much about the social and psychological environment because that is what impacts upon us also.

The University of Washington did not admit me to the graduate school, claiming my test scores were too low. I didn't bother asking them *which* test scores since they had a battery of tests from back in the nineteen-fifties. There were the graduate school admissions test, the Miller Analogies Test, the Law School Admissions Test, and a bunch of others.

But there is something wrong here. I am a man who has studied through nine different colleges and universities including three Ivy League schools, Dartmouth, Cornell, and the University of Pennsylvania. I was admitted to the graduate schools of the University of Delaware, Temple University (where I earned my master's) and the University of Pennsylvania, where I almost completed the doctorate but dropped out when I took on the separation of church and state lawsuits against the state of Delaware.

The bottom line is that despite the severe educational problems prevailing in the Seattle schools today, with severe disparate impact against minorities, with students bringing guns into the classrooms and with severe racial discrimination prevailing, the University of Washington excludes from its program of studies a man such as me who has vast experience in dealing with minority issues, including the issues confronting the one minority faced with the greatest discrimination of all, Atheists and their children.

I wrote friendly letters to the Seattle Area Humanists and the Seattle Area Atheists. The Humanists did not reply to my friendly letter and the Atheists rejected me outright, being part of that Atheist cult from Austin, Texas, with its own Holy Trinity.

I contacted all of the news media in the Seattle area calling attention to my sixty lawsuits in state and federal courts and my ten cases before the United States Supreme Court. I wrote four letters to KING radio which has a talk show featuring Mike Segal and wrote Mike two letters explaining the suppression of this vital information by the media. None of my letters to KING radio were answered either.

Clearly, these are stumbling blocks and I am now in the process of turning them into stepping stones by letting everyone know what has taken place.

None of this surprises me. I have been around a bit too long, something like thirty years in the Atheist arena alone and since childhood have dealt with the media.

Media suppression and manipulation is nothing new to me. I expect it and my prophecy is fulfilled almost every time.

Much of this is due to the new policy of hiring pretty little girls fresh out of journalism school and placing them in powerful positions. They invariably abuse this power knowing that they cannot even lose their jobs for libel because of First Amendment protections.

The media, newspapers especially, do not like to hire men and women with real life experiences so they don't even know what is important.

I am reminded here about Schopenhauer's essay, The Art of Literature wherein he points out that there are two kinds of writers. There are those who have never done anything in their lives, are often from affluent families and have no goals in life. These people, wondering what to do, think to themselves, "I think I will become a writer." They then take Writing Course One and Writing Course Two and eventually get a degree in "Writing."

With the degree in Writing they then feel they *must* write, although they have nothing to say. So they are hired to write by others similar to them and when they do write they receive the acclaim and the awards of those who are similar to them. Clones rewarding themselves.

But, pointed out Schopenhauer, there is another kind of writer. He is the person who sails the seven seas, penetrates the darkest jungles and climbs the highest mountains. He sees and experiences many, many things and wants to tell others about them. In his enthusiasm he writes them down and creates a book.

The critics denounce this book with venom. They say it has poor sentence structure, poor grammar, all of the mindless criticisms about writing which we have encountered in school.

Years later someone runs across this book in a dusty corner of an old used bookstore and is fascinated by what the writer has to tell. The book is brought to the Academy and the discoverer of this treasure becomes an instant hero. His book sees the light of day and is often revised and condensed with the true author only being found in a subtitle.

So I won't go to the University of Washington — the loss is theirs; and I won't meet with the Seattle Area Atheists of Humanists, being persona non grata. As it is time to cry, I now laugh.

At times like these it is tempting to write a diatribe about my experiences with the Goddess of the Atheists, to describe in detail how she exploits the Atheist community. I will not engage in this delightful activity at this time, saving it for a later date.

But I will point out that Atheists are a subculture in America today and our children are victimized and we are the victims of the severest repression which exists in the world today. That too will be the subject of another lengthy article.

What I am concerned about today is something much broader than Atheism, a social phenomenon which affects all of us. I am speaking of the awesome power in our society weilded by such newspaper columnists as Ann Landers and Dear Abby, as well as the talk show personalities such as Sally Jesse Raphael.

These women are in the continuing process of passing out misinformation (Ann Landers even condones circumcision!) and endlessly engage in men-bashing.

What we need is someone to supplant these ruthless, agressive women. We need a long time married man such as myself, a man who has been married going on forty-two years and who has raised nine children and who has thirteen grandchildren. Certainly my experience in the field of sex is more important that that of Dr. Ruth and my experience as a long time, happily married man is one where I can give better sex therapy than some young kid who has simply studied this in school and scored high on the tests, tests created by psychologists who can't even change a flat tire!

I, for one, am very tired of the liberation rhetoric of the women's movement. That rhetoric is based upon a hatred of men and must be challenged for what it is, a selfish egocentrism devoid of concern for their own families. It is a destructive ethic and I far prefer the sane voice of a traditional wife who is creating a happy home to the shrill shouts of those unfulfilled women seeking to impose their discontent on all others.

POLICE BRUTALITY IN OREGON

When we speak of the environment many people only think of the *physical* environment such as water pollution, air pollution,and the silting of our lakes and rivers. To us, as humans, this might be the most trivial part of our environment, the more important parts including the legal, sociological, psychological, educational and political environments. Although I *do* spend a lot of time investigating the obvious physical environment factors mentioned above and including such phenomena as earthquakes, volcanoes, tidal waves, the Santa Ana winds, the El Nino effect, tornadoes, and hurricanes, I feel it of greater importance to spend my time ferreting out those more insidious but less identifiable factors affecting us such as the plague of violence foisted upon us by the Reagan administration, the *systematic discrimination* which has always been with us and is so hard to identify and even more difficult to correct. Systematic discrimination is that form of discrimination which is built right into the system and includes, but is not at all limited to the total bankruptcy and corruption of our legal system — which has nothing whatsoever to do with justice.

This also has to do with the education of your citizens by the mini-marts through the default of the Establishment "educators" who limit educational opportunities, seeing education as a stepping stone to the big buck.

While our "professional educators" exclude such as me from their ranks the buck-oriented mini-mart operators are providing our citizens with video tapes loaded with sado-masochism, extreme violence, and ultimate obscenities. While much is made of exposure of genitals by the postal service, this agency condones violence, as does our sadistic educational system which accepts and condones corporal punishment and even the death penalty. Violence is the standard in the media, through rock music, through our newspapers and magazines and most of all, through our police and through our courts.

Since September I have been on the West Coast. I was denied admission to the college of education at the University of Washington because they said I had "low" test scores on the graduate record examinations. Never mind my record in the field of education, which means nothing. However, let me also call attention to the fact that while I am denied admission to the University of Washington, special considerations are given to racial and ethnic minorities.

While on Camano Island in Puget Sound I heard that my son Charles was in jail. I rushed to John Day, Oregon, where he is living and discovered that the police had gone to his place of work with the U.S. Forest Service in Prairie City, Oregon, where he was handcuffed and thrown in jail for five days with a $40,000 bond and a two year probation. He was also fined and had to pay for the slop which they called "food" while in jail. Since firefighters are seasonal employees his being in jail meant that he could not fulfill the quarterly requirements to qualify for his unemployment benefits and his benefits were reduced from $160 to $90, not enough to live on.

Charles was not read his rights and was not provided a lawyer.

There is more to this story. Charles is a private pilot working on his biennial flight review and on his instrument rating and commercial license. When he took his medical exam the medical certificate included a question "Have you ever been convicted?" Assuming he had made retribution through this fine and jail sentence and having made good the overdrafted check at the mini-mart where he regularly shopped, he put down "No." Shortly after his lawyer told him to return the medical certificate to the flight surgeon, Dr. Harris of Canyon City, Oregon.

All of this constitutes *systematic discrimination* and is so difficult to rectify because it is *hidden* discrimination, too easily justified, as is all discrimination.

The United States Forest Service hires many youngsters straight out of the Job Corps. This is where they found Charles. They then dump these youngsters into these rural communities where education is held in contempt and the macho image prevails. Grant County, Oregon, where this incident occurred, has the highest dropout rate in the state of Oregon and also has the highest crime rate and the highest rate of violence in the state of Oregon.

The United States Forest Service does not provide any protection at all for these youngsters. No financial help, no legal help, no counselling, no follou up. These young men and women are just dumped in these communities and are then at the mercy of all who will exploit them, primarily those merchants whose only interest in these youngsters is how much money they can squeeze out of them.

Grant County old timers boast about the macho and crime ridden image of this county, boasting that here a man can commit murder and get away with it, that it is done regularly!

Keep in mind that Charles had an account at the First Interstate Bank in John Day and that he had been living in Prairie City for four years and that he has a superior work record with the United States Forest Service.

Keep in mind also that he has spent virtually all his income in Grant County — $500 for a new front end for his car, several hundred dollars for tires and other automobile needs, money for food, clothing, rent and sundries. Be also aware that the life of a firefighter is dangerous work where he has put his life on the line endless times, that ten people lost their lives fighting fires this past summer yet no headlines honored their loss as was the case with the "elite" Challenger crew!

Keep in mind also that both the banks and the mini-marts make big money from overdrafted check charges and that when one check bounces it creates a domino effect causing other checks to bounce, all of which are assessed a so-called "Service charge" of $10 or $15 by the bank and up to $25 by the merchants, regardless of the amount of the check. *This* is where the *real* criminality lies. This is the basis of true systematic discrimination in America today.

By levying excessive fines for trivial offenses Grant County, Oregon helps finance itself on the shoulders and the blood, sweat and tears of these helpless youngsters such as my son.

One must asky *why* does the Federal Aviation Administration demand that a person incriminate himself by posing a question about whether or not a pilot has ever been convicted? This in itself is a violation of the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibiting self-incrimination and is in itself an act of *systematic discrimination*!

While in John Day I conducted additional investigation and discovered other unsavory practices affecting young firefighters. They are scandalous!

One young man described to me how he went into a mini-mart and was asked to produce his age identification, While his friend went to his car to get his driver's license out of the glove compartment the owner of the mini-mart put a gun to his chest and pulled the trigger. He shot the young man in the chest and then told him, "That one was a blank, the next one ain't!" The youngster left but was then charged with trespassing and must now go before the Grant County judge where he will most likely be convicted of trespassing, thrown into jail, and fined heavily — adding to the coffers of Grant County and carrying a record on the federal computer as a "criminal"!

I wrote a letter to Governor Goldschmidt of Oregon but to date have not received the courtesy of a reply. I also wrote The Oregonian, Oregon's largest newspaper, They did not publish my news release nor my letter to the editor on this subject. All of this is part of the bag of *systematic discrimination* in which the media too are implicated.

The same conditions relating to the courts apply here in Iowa where I have been fighting systematic discrimination and more overt discrimination since 1978 when I first moved into this area.

In February I am going east. I have asked to meet with Mayor Andrew Young of Atlanta and also asked for a meeting with Senators Grassley and Harkin of Iowa and Senator Simpson of Wyoming. I have also asked for a meeting with President-elect George Bush with the additional request that I be commissioned as a special administrative assistant for *systematic discrimination* responsible directly to him.

My fight has just begun!

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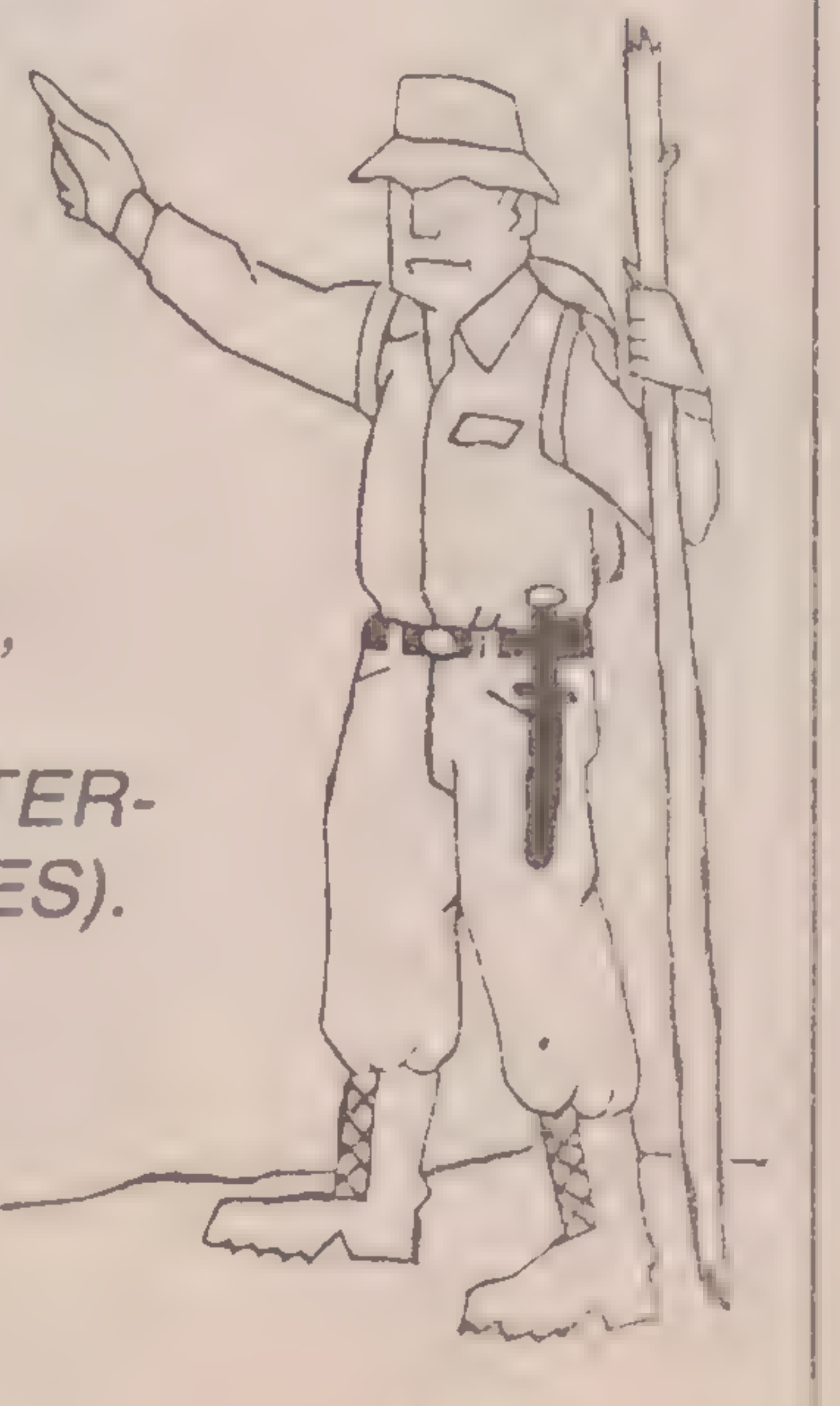

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POSSIBLY SUBVERSIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

by Kerry Wendell Thornley

I met a guy last night in Little Five Points who says he is Jane Pauley's cousin! (sigh) R_____ P_____ is his name — he's from New York, seems like a very nice guy. 29 years old. Rod Stewart haircut. Interested in anything you want to talk about. Not much of a sense of humor, though — one of those people you have to explain to when you're being satirical. Let me crash on his sofa last night.

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He said, "I got in a fight with a cop once. He got mad because my vocabulary was more extensive than his."

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Jane Pauley is the only woman I've ever become a groupie about. It isn't a sexual thing. It's just that for the latter half of 1978 and early '79 — isolated in Tujunga with no friends and a television — she seemed like my only friend. I'd wake up in the morning and turn on the Today Show — and there she'd be, all soft and fuzzy, making me feel that way at a time when no one else did. I even went to the library once to read up about her in Current Biography. (Her sister is a nuclear physicist, etc.) When Jessica Savitch was killed (allegedly) in an alleged traffic accident (allegedly by Walter Cronkite) and I was at Becky's, where I heard the news, I responded almost without thinking: "Thank God it wasn't Jane Pauley!"

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Maybe I should assassinate Reagan to get her attention, eh? (I've already thought about assassinating Jody Foster to get Reagan's attention.)

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I dreamed about _____ last night. It seemed like a natural dream. She looked just like herself. Than, as I was waking up afterwards I said, "I love you, _____." And a voice seemed to say, "She is not ten miles from here". Last I heard she's in Ohio. (I've even thought of hitch-hiking up there and trying to find here — but you know how things like that go: the whole world would be talking about nothing else all the way up there and for weeks afterwards.)

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How do you make people mind their own (obviously impoverished) business?

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There would be women who looked like _____ — dressed this way and that — everywhere I went, etc.

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I never found out what happened to Gerry Reith. There were hints before his death of fake suicides to avoid mind control, afterwards — from Bob Black — that I'd been involved in his murder and — from the media — that he was like Chris Wilder or a "beer sandwich." One night K_____ and I were talking across the kitchen in Fort Lauderdale. She was trying to interest me in some trivial problem in cant & I was in no mood to deal with a typical "beer" (one step beyond wage slavery in the direction of slavery) and, when I didn't, she said in cant, she (or whoever she was representing) was going to kill me. That is about when the FBI visited Gerry, then he allegedly killed himself. Then the insinuating letter from Black and the rumors of a "beer sandwich" and the "Wilder Kills Self" headlines (they call me "Self", sometimes). He was prolific, believed everyone should work selflessly for the anarchist cause — yet he was whimsical and quite fuunny — with a biting wit. Not more than a year or two did he write in the Fnord Generation publications — sometimes incomprehensibly, I'd say. (But then who am I to talk?) Then, with that all-too-soon James Dean always-leave-'em-wanting-more Janis Joplin showbiz exit, with no warning — no encores. I think more issues of more little journals and newsletters and more poems have been dedicated to his memory than anyone else whose death has been noted anywhere in the mail art junk mail network, famous or otherwise. Perfect timing, Gerry — wherever you are. Perfect timing.

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A talented maniac arrives spouting incoherently about sometimes nearly incomprehensible urgent things and then is dead, and Joan Baez sings about that poor girl or everyone says in memorium — too fast to live, too young to die, bye-bye. The Jesus syndrome gets 'em where they live. (Jesus Campos, a professor of Dutch History at the University of Barcelona, that is.)

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We spend most of our lives trying to solve problems accorind to the notions of leaders whose ideas, we find sooner or later, don't work anyway. we humble ourselves before these people and listen at their knees and then sooner or later we get fed up with them and they are officially discredited and we flock to someone else. What an enormous waste of time that could be spent instead examining and enhancing the quality of our individual lives, alone or in affinity groups, attackingthe same general problems, wrongly and rightly, from ten thousand different directions, learning from our mistakes and the mistakes of others, accumulating data about what works and what doesn't work at a dizzying speed — instead of spending a decade with this clique — of whom we are half terrified — and a decade with their enemies who've just proved them wrong — with good arguments and flimsy evidence — of whom we are also half terrified.

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I suspect any plan — no matter how revolutionary (and no matter how libertarian) — including even the single tax — that aims at any goal besides simply allowing workers to keep the whole product of their own labor — disposing of it in the free market or donating it to the community as they themselves see fit.

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Anything more complicated always winds up seeming like just new con games for old.

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Q.W.N. — There was a section of town that looked like a ghetto to Quent — or that at least, with a little work, could be made into a ghetto.

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Aaron Burr founded the Manhattan Bank, which at sometime must have merged with Chase-Warburg Bank, and became Chase Manhattan! (p. 44, **TREASON IN AMERICA**)

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I think about how the colonies objected to the quartering of British troops in American homes — they'd be turning over in their graves today if half of what I hear about electrical snooping is true.

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R_____ P_____ indicated in cant I should be forgiven if I didn't understand R.A.W. was sabotaging L.B.J.s plans for a welfare state, I think if I'd known what was going on, I'd've sided with R.A.W., though. "The Great Society: Bombs, Bullets, and Bullshit!" Welfare states, according to libertarian historians, are nearly always destined to become warfare states. Notable exceptions I can think of are only in Scandinavia. Russia confiscates surplus value and spends it for weaponry, for the "good of the workers", of course. F.D.R. didn't get us out of the depression with the W.P.A., but with WWII — which created the Cowboy Southern Rim, which produced the L.B.J. presidency. Although what has happened to me since the publication of the **ILLUMINATUS!** trilogy has been horrible — with similarly hideous events like man-made earthquakes affecting others — I think the unimpeded triumph of the Great Society would've been something like Norma Mailer envisioned once, in reviewing Johnson's book.

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What I must say for the most intelligent of the assassins — including the Texas faction — is that I think, figuring the Indochina War inevitable because of Nazi power, that they conducted a government secret probe of the domestic war structure in action, in hopes of preventing future wars. I guess that *Nomenclature of an Assassination Cabal* was a summary of that investigation's results, a work written by someone who has since identified himself under the penname of William Torbitt. That is how we found out about D.I.S.C. and "Sam".

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Anyway, I was probably mistaken earlier in how much of Wilson's thought I attributed to L.B.J. Johnson probably wasn't *that* weird. (Very few individuals are as weird as Robert Anton Wilkson — as I'm sure he himself would still readily admit.)

[Aeditor's Note: Previous installments of *Possibly Subversive Flower Arrangements* appeared in FF21, and FF26 through FF28.]

FANZINE SPOTLIGHT

CRITIQUE: EXPOSING CONSENSUS REALITY

CRITIQUE
ALIENS

Vital Statistics:

Single issue, $5; One year (3 issues), $15; Two years, $28; Three years, $40; overseas add $10 per year, from PO Box 11368, Santa Rosa, CA 95406.

Started in 1980, and has printed roughly three times a year since then, though there were some catch-up double issues.

CRITIQUE is 8 1/2 by 11, typeset, and runs 96 pages per issue, on decent stock between glossy color covers.

Paid circulation is about 1800, with another 1000 copies or so on newsstands and a few trades.

The **FACTSHEET FIVE** library has the following issues: #11/12, #15/16, #19/20, #21/22, #23/24, #25, #26, #28 and #29.

When I saw my first issue of **CRITIQUE**, the subtitle was still "A Journal of Conspiracies and Metaphysics", but the magazine has evolved considerably since then. Now publisher Bob Banner has taken to doing very focused issues rather than inviting crackpots from all over the intellectual map. The most recent issue, for example, looked at sexuality from a variety of un-ordinary points of view. Topics included Karezza, the sexual antics of Rasputin, plural marriages, celibacy, pornography, incest, the possible biowarfare origins of AIDS, sexual rights and prostitution, intercourse with fairies, demons and ETs, and Tantric sex — among other things. And this stuff isn't being churned out by any old bozo. Waves Forest, Robert Anton Wilson, Antero Alli, Jay Kinney, Joe David, Bhagwan Rajneesh and other luminaries of the margin are among the contributors here. Previous special issues have covered topics like Islam & Holistic Health, Evil, and Aliens.

But it hasn't always been this impressive physically. **CRITIQUE** started off as a digest-sized booklet, gradually evolving to a quality paperbound booklet 150 pagesor more thick before making the leap to a full-sized slick. Along the way Bob's learned many of the tricks of the trade, from traditional typesetting to laser printing to linotronic, along with the assorted hassles of marketing, distribution, and scheduling. He's learned one prime lesson from juggling all this: "Don't do it if you're not an entrepreneur. You have to love it, be a bit crazy, energetic and a propagandist at heart. Also, never tell an author that her/his piece is in until the zine has come back from the printers."

Along the way, too, he's had a lot of contact with other publishers. His views of this are not at all positive: "Both the establishment and the anti-establishment zines suck. The former sells materialism and false hopes and deluded dreams, while the latter is usually stuck in rigid ideological pandering always needing to panhandle for charity funds. The so-called photocopy zines, what I've seen of them, are trash. It is so cluttered and dirty. With the new technology you'd think creative & artistic people would take advantage of it — but instead they're sloppy and very difficult to look at and read. Editors need to remove their egos from their work and learn some basic communication skills. However, perhaps they are merely expressing their neuroses — by saying they're expressing something meaningful yet doing it in such an obscure and disguised manner. **HARPER'S** is my favorite along with **UFO, HIGH FRONTIERS, OMNI, SCORPION, IHR, PARABOLA, GNOSIS, JOURNAL OF PALESTINE STUDIES,** and **GRANTA.**"

Bob says he's going to keep publishing **CRITIQUE** until he dies, and here's why: "I think all self-chosen careers are projections of what an individual needs to be doing on this planet before they pass the test and move on to some other species. I have this need to want to say many things yet I know I'm very lazy, undisciplined and realize that a collection of words by others would prove to be more powerful than my singular voice. That is why I try to get authors to write for me who have written what I have not (or who've written it much better than I).

"Rather than being content with being a musician I'd rather have the glamor of being an orchestra conductor — someone who can't play, yet loves the music enough to orchestrate it so it appears as a coherent entity.

"When you think of the act of writing and its history among non-oral cultures it begins to be apparent that one writes frequently to express one's core — whether the core is love, needing attention, needing to communicate in search of understanding, or the myriad perversions of the aforementioned motives. We seek like minded individuals in search of the all encompassing and mysterious and fulfilling secret brotherhood. We write to become initiated by the genuine gods, our true fathers — so we can finally be embraced by a knowledge so powerful that another word no longer needs to be written.

"An idea that I've been entertaining lately is that popular culture reads material that is basically the same as it ever was — the craft is not in word crafting but to make the story sound NEW! It needs newness to fulfill the delusion that we are evolving and moving. *The same bullshit but a different day* — an office poster I saw today.

"Yet, even though we publish the same material over and over again, our motivation appears to align ourselves with movements, whether they are historical, ideas, political, or spiritual — simply repeating what others before us have done. It's fun, though, isn't it?!"

In the end, **CRITIQUE** remains a valuable way to stretch one's mind. I find that I take less than half the contents really seriously as "truth" — but the vast majority of the writers here seem to be on the track of *something*. In order to keep the brain from ossifying, it's vital to read things that are well-written and -argued that one does not agree with, and the writer here fit that bill for me nicely. Maybe they will for you too.

POETRY

★★★★★

Poetry reviews are by either P.J. Bellomo (pj) or the Aeditor (MG).

★★★★★

ANGELTREAD 15 ($2 from Tina Phillips, Box 785, Charleston, IL 61920): Although the editor purportedly "seeks the best in contemporary writing, photography, and art" these photostatic reproductions don't give the art and photography a chance. The poetry, however, is discernable, with special attention to a great work by Wm. Mathews called "Fox Ridge State Park, Illinois, October." Editor, editor, have mercy! (S-9) (pj)

★★★★★

APA-RENGA #19-20 ($5 from PO Box 429, Monte Rio, CA 95462): That money will start an account so you receive the next several issues of this reader-written poetry jam. Renga are sort of like linked haiku — short verses pregnant with meaning combined into larger wholes. Here the combination is even more exciting because the system allows more than one continuation of the same line, with the best rengae growing dozens of branches. You can subscribe just to watch, but it's even more fun to join in. (O-48) (MG)

★★★★★

Ivan Arguelles, **BAUDELAIRE'S BRAIN** ($3 from Sub Rosa Press, 840 #2A Palisade Avenue, Teaneck, NJ 07666): Compared to most poetry I see in the small press, these works are long. In addition, they are image-laden works, complex and unforgiving. Although the complexity leads to clumsiness in places, most of these poems reflect the same rushed fluidity as in "Hesperides." Breaking the verse into shorter line lengths would ease the reading w/o detracting from the style or meaning. (D-59) (pj)

★★★★★

ARROYO Nov '88 ($.50 from PO Box 5591, Springfield, Illinois 62705): A page of reviews and some not-too-clear graphics, but mainly diverse selection of poetry. Tina Phillips stands out with "Valentine," describing the bitterness of a romance gone sour — good poem, bad title. Likewise, Carl Bettis' piece "For Sarah Ann, My Stillborn Sister" stands in my memory, despite the fact that it loses steam in the final 4 stanzas. Worthwhile checking out. (S-11) (pj)

★★★★★

ARROYO, Violent Virgin Series ($.50 from PO Box 5591, Springfield, Illinois 62705): Couldn't find an issue number, but it's "the long-awaited all- Paul Weinman issue...." The majority of this work is from his "White Boy" series, with a poem, some creatively altered magazine clippings, and scattered quotes and epithets rounding things out. White Boy (frequently naked, in a bank, confronting cops, or all three) introduces a social question or problem, lists interpretations/possible solutions, and ends with cutting sarcastic commentary or timely indifference. (S-10) (pj)

★★★★★

Sha (u) nt Basmajian, **OPTIONS** (? from Score, 491 Mandana Blvd #3, Oakland, CA 94610): Visual poetry consisting of 4 pages with the word "OPTIONS" in the upper left-hand corner followed below by a series of left and right parentheses. There's a puzzling "?" halfway down each page on the left, and the "(" and ")" move steadily away from one another while simultaneously moving from symmetrical to assymetrical patterns. Such visual poetry challenges the limits of critique because the messages are so subtle: oh, the risk of appearing shallow. Hell, this is junk! (HS-8) (pj)

★★★★★

BELLOWING ARK vol 4, #6 ($2 from PO Box 45637, Seattle, Washington 98145): Literary tabloid filled with well-polished poetry "in the American Romantic tradition." There's usually fiction as a complement, and in this issue there's a short story and the second contribution of what appears to be a novel(la) by Dorothy Worfolk, the whole of which will be published in 10 consecutive BA issues. Recommended reading. Warning: editor has bad habit of biographically sketching women authors by hair color, and persists with undecipherable joke about Ithaca, NY. (T-20) (pj)

★★★★★

John M. Bennett, **SWELLING** ($3 from Runaway Spoon Press, PO Box 3621, Port Charlotte, Florida, 33949): This is the third or fourth work by Bennett that I've reviewed, and there has been a consistent pattern of high quality. This mini, illustrated well by Al Ackerman, is comprised of 23 short poems, each about 10 lines long. The poems, written in the 1st person, focus mainly on one character's relationship with a household companion: everything is introspective and swollen. (D-38) (pj)

★★★★★

Carl Bettis, **AMERICAN MEDIEVAL** ($5 from Carl Bettis, PO Box 32631, Kansas City, MO 64111): Although much of the work that Bettis included in the PFPJ transcript (see following review) is excerpted from this book, it is here that his best style and craft come to life. Pieces like "Company Benefits," "The Ground Underfoot," & "Hoods on the Loose" are samples of Bettis' creative potential. Unfortunately, one must plod thru loads of unimaginative christian symbolism & rhetoric prior to finding such works. A good poet, but with important choices to make. (D-53) (pj)

★★★★★

Carl Bettis, Sharon Eiker, & Davina Anne Gabriel, **POETS FOR PEACE & JUSTICE 1** ($3 from Carl Bettis, PO Box 32631, Kansas City, MO 64111): A transcript of the first annual reading of a group of KC poets. Bettis and Eiker write mainly of current socio-political injustices. While these authors' poems show signs of care, they likewise show signs of banality. The greatest shortcoming is that the complaints are not only the same old thing, but inevitably in the same old style, with much commonly used imagery and no other answer than your standard references to jesus and the like. Gabriel initially showed promise with "Cockroach Karma," but quickly fell into a strained rhyme format which obscured any message. Perhaps a tape (to accompany the transcript) might have helped. (S-42) (pj)

★★★★★

BIG FIRE PROOF BOX #1 ($2 (?) from PO Box 6428, East Lansing, MI 48826): From the cover drawing of a young man shooting up you know this is going to be powerful work. Inside there are a lot of cries from people in depressing situations: drinking, buckling under too many emotions, trying hard to cover it all with obsessive sex. The general idea is that we're not alone in this world of ick, and maybe it's not so bad that way. A spacious layout allows displaying varied art to good advantage. (S-36t) (MG)

★★★★★

BONESAUCE 5 ($.50 from 1250 Tutwiler, #2, Memphis, TN 38107): An unruly little poetry zine which could double as a Hollywood collage. There's photos of The Duke, Elvis, Norma Jean, etc. strewn among many short, quick poems. Most of the poetry sucks, but there's precious bits here, like T. House's "sitting at my goddam desk." Some of the photos are colored-in with highlighters, kind of a neat effect. (D-15) (pj)

★★★★★

Greg Boyd, **PUPPET THEATRE** ($6.50 from Unicorn Press, PO Box 3307, Greensboro, NC 27402): Boyd writes prose poems with a dreamlike quality to them — dreams that sometimes turn into nightmares, as with the noose made of words that proves in one poem to be all too real. Indeed, words are one of the foci here — the way in which we empower them over ourselves is a crucial concern. All the poems are illustrated with Greg's own linoleum prints, which add a nice quality to the works, abstracting precisely what is most beautiful or terrifying in each poem. Just as an aside, Greg did all the other work, from typesetting to hand-binding, himself, so this is a uniquely personal book, assembled with loving care. (D-48t) (MG)

★★★★★

BRAT #4 (50¢ from Artists & Writers Underground, c/o Sarris Bookmarketing, 125 E. 23rd St. #300, New York, NY 10010): A zine of depressing little bits of poetry hacking away at authority, yuppies, suicide, sex, and whatever else can be condemned as overly sterile. Little bits of pornography pepper it, including a bit of politically-oriented fantasy from Bob Black. (M-24r) (MG)

★★★★★

BRISTLECONE Fall 1988 ($10/4 issues from Western Nevada Community College, 2201 West Nye Ln., Carson City, NV 89703): There's some slight regional emphasis here but that is more luck of the draw than a matter of intent. Certainly the best poem here, George Wellendorf's "The End of Industry" has universal appeal in the view of humans from the eternal horseshoe crab: "a human is such a sad little creature —/ too soft a shell and too large a brain,/ it hasn't got a chance...." The poems here tend to be crafted and packed with meaning, waiting for the reader to unravel them. (D-16t) (MG)

★★★★★

Alan Catlin, **A NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH** ($3 from 143 Furman St, Schenectady, NY 12304): A chapbook of poems written in a narrative style. The title poem closes-out the chapbook with a disturbing account of a bartender closing-up the place in bad company. Generally, these poems were a little flat compared to Catlin's other works. (S-16) (pj)

★★★★★

Alan Catlin, **A WORLD OUT OF BALANCE** ($2.50 from 143 Furman St, Schenectady, NY 12304): Much of this poetry is set in the NY Capitol District, with the primary scenes being the cities' streets or small pubs. The subject matter is the bus stop, the beer tap, the local baseball team, etc. and all the characters that go with it. Whereas the poetic essence can be readily appreciated, the poetry itself often can not. The verse is a flat prosody with nothing to bring the images to life. (D-24) (pj)

★★★★★

Alan Catlin, **AN UNRESOLVED ARGUMENT WITH SHADOWS** ($4 from 143 Furman St, Schenectady, NY 12304): Of these 37 poems, 30 are written in a style where the author begins the piece with a pronoun which describes the person(s) in the title. For example, "The Bugler" begins "He stands rolling his own/under the No Smoking sign/asks, lighting a match...." Within this structure Catlin struggles to resolve the shadows, if not powerfully, at least tenaciously. The implication that he did a stint behind the bar at the Washington Tavern should make it that much more exciting for you Albany types. (D-37t) (pj)

★★★★★

Anthony George Chianese, **HOME IS WHERE THE EYEBALL IS** ($2.50 from 301 Seaman S., New Brunswick, NJ 08901): Very airy poetry — not insubstantial, but more easily moved from one line to another than hard blocks of verse are. Anthony writes in a near stream-of-consciousness style (never mind that he obviously takes time to construct each line), drawing the reader in and then along for the trip. I really liked "Colors", an indictment of the American system that managed to ring true but not hackneyed. Lots of love and hope here as well. (S-50) (MG)

★★★★★

John Eberly, **CUNT IN MY FACE** ($1 (?) from Mad Dog Press, PO Box 47, Youngwood, PA 15697): Explicit accounts of cunnilingus in the form of 14 poems, 11 titled with a woman's name. The image of a woman's vagina as a sweet fruit is extremely tiresome, but despite this — and the "milk" and "honey" and the latent machismo — these poems do deliver interesting, occasionally erotic, perspectives on this style of oral sex. (D-16) (pj)

★★★★★

EYE OF THE BEAST ($5 from Belinda Subraman, HHB 2-3 ADA‹ Box 283, APO New York, NY 09110): A collection of poems by Lyn Lifshin, Belinda Subraman, S. Ramnath and Robert Burlingame. These poets share in common an economy of words and a fascination with people — perhaps these should be the hallmarks of all good poets but they aren't. Belinda's "Tell Me About Compassion, America" rubs our noses in poverty, while Lyn's "Party" drops us smack-dab in the middle of the modern world with primitive instincts. There's a grand variety here that all sings with quiet craft. (D-67t) (MG)

★★★★★

FACTIONAL FUCKHEADS ($1 (?) from Persona Non Grata, 7535 Calhoun, Dearborn, MI 48126): Subtitled "Contemporary American Poetry", this little digest gives us a few dozen quick blurts from folks who see the world through somewhat jaundiced eyes, refusing to perform as poets are supposed to. Especially notable are Michael Basinski's frightened excursions into "normal" life and a couple of hot poems from Cheryl Townsend, one of the few women working in this style. (D-20t) (MG)

★★★★★

FEH! 5 ($1.00 from Simeon Stylites, PO Box 5806, Station B, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3B 4T1): Jenny Joseph's poem "Warning" gets things moving in a good way. She says "When I am an old woman I shall wear purple" and drink and pull alarms and partake in numerous other antisocial activities, such as sitting "down on the pavement when I'm tired." This work of art is not quite representative of the other poems; they are more crude, and as the editor puts it, "odious." There are priceless reprints here, including "The White Knight's Song," a personal favorite by Lewis Carroll. Fun and nonsense for those not easily offended. (HL-20t) (pj)

★★★★★

FRAGMENTS 1 ($1 from Alchemy Press, 1789 Macdonald Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11230): New quarterly journal "interested in publishing fragmented work of unpublished writers" — one's gotta think there's a host of material that fits the bill! This first issue is entirely comprised of shorts by Fred Calero. In this case one must sift thru an awful lot of crap to find the few goodies. Much of it's philosophical, traced with that Eastern bent which signifies "deep insight." Could go any direction... (D-68) (pj)

★★★★★

John Garmon, **DUST IN MY TEETH** ($3 from The Academic & Arts Press, PO Box 1621, Pueblo, CO 81002): There's a strong sense of geography about these poems. Garmon speaks (for the most part) with the wide-open windswept voice of the Western US, tracking down some of the people and feelings of the last of the frontier. Try this slice of "Texas Panhandle Fifties": "Drought drags its parching tongue/along fencerows to the empty creek./We who have not prayed begin mumbling". (D-12t) (MG)

★★★★★

GENTLE WILLOW #1 (SASE from Norma Lee Edwards, 220 Locust St., Reading, PA 19604): A single-sheet broadside of Norma's own poetry. She writes in a rather traditional mode, of bandshells and their inhabitants, of the effects of reading Shakespeare, of the relative merits of cobwebs and sunbeams, and of other unlikely subjects. Rather refreshing. (S-1t) (MG)

★★★★★

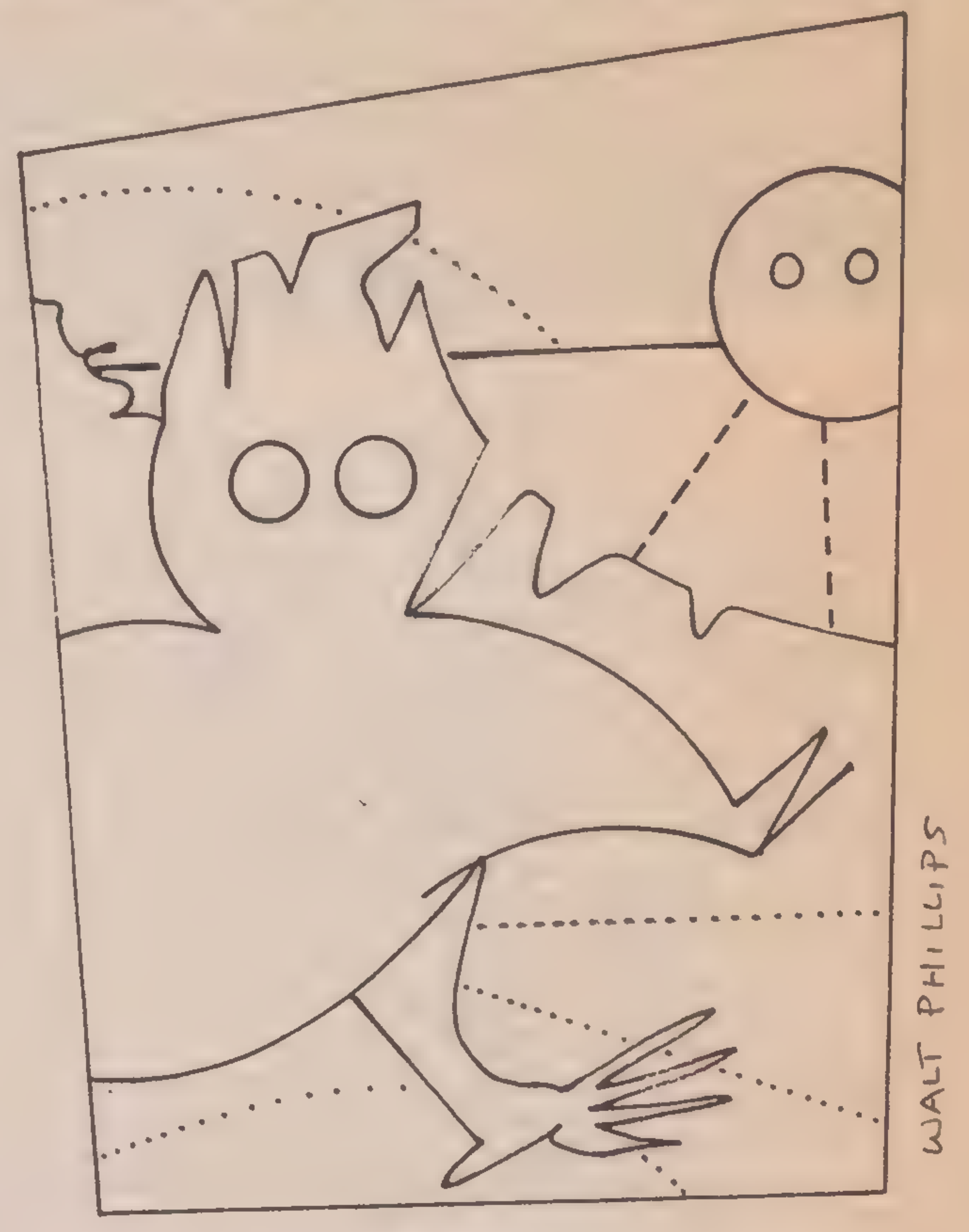
GYPSY SPECIAL ($5 from Belinda Subraman, HHB 2-3 ADA, Box 283, APO New York, NY 09110): Subtitled "A Compilation Experiment", this issue of GYPSY was assembled of works sent in already printed by about five dozen poets and writers. The theme was "Sexual love or other passions", and while not all is hot or all poetry, there is plenty of hot poetry here. Cheryl Townsend's short poems of lust stand out, as do Lyn Lifshin's thoughts on being a travelling poet. There's really too much here to describe other than to say that passions clearly excite the poets. (S-75) (MG)

★★★★★

Michael Hathaway, **INCONSPICUOUS** ($4 from Rt 2 Box 111, St John, Kansas, 67576): Short, light poems, sculpted with the utmost care and precision. The poem "lifeline" comes to mind, where the author talks of rescuing drowning insects "w/a stick or leaf/(but I don't do CPR)." This humor is somewhat overtaken later by the many references to the christian supreme being, but I must say even this is approached with a certain light-handed style. Many, I believe, would thoroughly enjoy this. (D-32) (pj)

★★★★★

Crag Hill, **I'M**, Scorebooklet #2 (? from ?): A chapbook containing one, 8 page poem which starts "i'm age/i'm aginal/i'm agism..." and finishes "i'm pure/i'm purity/i'm pute." The *modifiers* drive the poem in alphabetical order from "a" words to "b," "i," m," and finally "p" words. It's saddle-stitched so I assume somebody cares about this, and it's no doubt really deep, but frankly I found it completely uninteresting. (D- 8) (pj)



★★★★★

IDEAS AND EMOTIONS ($1 from Claus Korn, Alte Burgstr. 1, D-8830 Treuchtlingen, WEST GERMANY) Claus's English is not spot on, so some of these lyrics are a bit awkward. But occasionally something clicks and they become charming, as with "In the Swirl of Life", a song that starts out without much hope but then recovers from an existential attack quite nicely. (A4-5) (MG)

★★★★★

INDUSTRIAL DECAY QUARTERLY #1 ($3 from PO Box 15027, Washington, DC 20003): The repeated images of sex and birth coupled with those of technology are appropriate for this new mag with a mission: the reclamation of a new way of life from the shards of a vanishing civilization. It's an ambitious project, and the poets are as yet picking only gently at the edges, egged on by the photocopyformed images of walls and buildings. Contributors include Todd Moore, Richard Peabody and Patrick McKinnon. (HL-40r) (MG)

★★★★★

Matt Jasper, **SUNLIGHT FLOODS THE ROOM. THREE ARE DROWNED.** ($3 from Tray Full of Lab Mice Publications, c/o jasper, PO Box 303, Durham, NH 03824) A hardcover mini with poems of madness and despair. Apparently many of the people here are real, with these words being probably the only capturing of their private universes that will last. It looks like they live in scary places for the most part, where life is nasty and events arbitrary. Powerful but distressing. Illustrated with harsh collage drawings. (M-32t) (MG)

★★★★★

Ruan Ji, **SONGS OF MY HEART** (£4.50 from Wellsweep Press, 26 Teesdale Road, Leytonstone, London E11 1NQ, ENGLAND): A new translation by Graham Hartill and Wu Fusheng of this 3rd century Chinese poet. These short verses — 82 of them — are mainly concerned with finding a liveable life amidst times of turmoil. I was especially struck by the repeated image of the sparrow, who, though not as famous as the crane, is a much better survivor. This translation is relatively free of scholarly appurtenances and prepared for a reading public, and it's a pleasant way to spend an afternoon. (A5-96t) (MG)

★★★★★

THE KINDRED SPIRIT vol VII, #2 ($2 from Rt 2 Box 111, St John, KS 67576): Aside from some editorial blathering which is begging for some serious critique, this is a class poetry tabloid. Authors are generally represented by not one but a group of poems, frequently with an accompanying photo. Many names will be recognized, though one notable poet was new to me: R.L. Holt contributed 12 short pieces which, though decidedly different from haiku in style, evoke similar response. Printed as a final issue, but "back in business" when we received it. (T-20) (pj)

★★★★★

LACTUCA 10 ($3.50 from Mike Selender, PO Box 621, Suffern, NY 10901): Published thrice yearly, this literary journal focuses on getting quality, unpublished material in black & white. Although it's mostly poetry, there's a couple of short stories and sketches. The poetic work of Fran Barst was especially powerful, one poem called "Rape" is still ringing in my head. On the average, good classic literary stuff. (D-44) (pj)

★★★★★

Steven La Ponsie, **MEMOIRS OF THE COFFEE SHOP SOCIETY** ($1 (?) FROM Mostly Underground, PO Box 5953, Huntington Beach, CA 92646): This one is fun. In a microcosm bounded by the four walls of his morning coffee shop, and populated by bacon, eggs, and caffiene as much as people, La Ponsie explores the outlines of humanness. If Proust can do it with a madeleine, then this should be no surprise; for within each part the whole is contained. Real people come to life here for their brief moment on the breakfast stage and then pass on, having eaten. (D-16) (MG)

★★★★★

MATCHBOOK ($1 (?) from Tray Full of Lab Mice Publications, c/o Jasper, PO Box 303, Durham, NH 03824): A marvel of construction as much as anything else. By dint of typesetting, foldouts and even using the front of the matches, these folks have packed 14 poems, many from Matt Jasper's chapbook (above), into a standard matchbook. The works themselves tend to be dreamy and surreal, little bits of verbiage that eventually choke ont heir own words and fall silent. (MM) (MG)

★★★★★

David Brion McCoy, **RETROSPECTIVE** ($5 from Spare Change Poetry, 2115 Clearview NE, Massillon, OH 44646): David's selection of what he feels are his best works from his first 15 years of writing poetry. The book opens with a series of interpretations of paintings by folks from Matisse to O'Keefe, and closes with "Postcards From Home", a linked series that might plausibly be seen as interpretations of love. Indeed, it seems that McCoy has taken interpretation to be the task of the poet, sriving to capture in well-chosen words what's important behind subjects as diverse as newspaper headlines, gardening, and firewood. (M-72) (MG)

★★★★★

John McKinley, **SIGHT AND SOUND IN PARAEXISTENCE** and **NEW METHODS OF FLOGGING DEAD HORSES** ($1 (?) from PO Box 3816, Ventura, CA 93006): In the case of both chapbooks, most of this poetry is written in the 1st person, with introspective and observational styles. The two opening pieces of **NMOFDH**, "The Mayonnaise Jars" & "Inverse Alice," work well: creative, but simple and light, no groping for complex imagery. Other pieces founder because of strained imagery like "the opaque skull of death;".if one reads much poetry s/he is likely to sense a dead horse being beaten. (D-24) (pj)

★★★★★

THE MOMENT 8 ($2 from 22704 Ventura Blvd, #245, Woodland Hills, CA 91364): Don't let the many high school year book-/fraternity party-type photos completely alienate you. These folks get deeper than their cover photo restaging the Beatles famous walk across the street. Some interesting short poems; about no one topic in particular, but clear and meaningful. However, the slow pieces coupled with the ho-hum layout might preclude anyone other than a reviewer from finding the goodies. (S-24) (pj)

★★★★★

MUTATED VIRUSES (WITH A MORBID ATTRACTION TO TREES) #8 (75¢ from Angi, 1094 W. Pratt Blvd. #1E, Chicago, IL 60626): Poetry from new and strange voices, people who want to figure out what makes the world tick, take it apart, and fix it. Dechant's "A Certain Interlude" manages to pack quite an erotic wallop into 9 lines, without being in the least explicit; Pete's "Real Life" pounds on the mundane in the hopes of making us think once again. (D-32t) (MG)

★★★★★

Stanley Nelson, **DRIFTIN' ON A NIGHTRIFF** ($3 from Sub Rosa Press, 840 #2A Palisade Avenue, Teaneck, NJ 07666): Chapbook of abstract poetry with verbo-visual tendencies. The poems (or is it one poem in 33 parts?), along with a few photographs, play with the imagery of a desolate harbor/industrial town. There's even a rhyme scheme, though damned if I can figure it. (MM-38) (pj)

★★★★★

NEW HOPE INTERNATIONAL New Series #12 ($3 from 20 Werneth Ave., Gee Cross, Hyde, SK14 5NL, ENGLAND): Perhaps I've been spoiled by all the wild things going on in the small press, but the traditional poems in this collection just don't excite me. They're all competent enough, and a few are more than that, but it seems that tightly-constructed verse has been done to death. I did get a few moments fun out of Stephen Middleton's semi-concrete "Infinity Looks a Bit Too Obvious" and M. Kettner's "Neurosis" struck the right balance between obvious and esoteric, so it wasn't a total loss. (A5-28) (MG)

★★★★★

NEXT EXIT 13 ($3 from 92 Helen St, Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 4P3): Along with the poems here, there are a few small, primitive sketches. If one quickly flips thru this without really reading, these sketches would foreshadow the poetic contents. The poems are striking in their utter simplicity. Almost without exception the authors give an impression of having lived the poem, even the abstract ones. In "Playing Chopsticks" this is how Sheila Murphy grounds the reader: "I drive a yellow Buick Century that must be washed." L. Horner, D.Palmer, B. Spicer, S. Dalton, and J. Yamrus deliver with comparable force. (D-28) (pj)

★★★★★

NOON BLUE APPLES 2 ($1 from 2080 E. Greenway, Tempe, AZ 85282): A broadside of poetry along with a section on what strikes me as unusual facts from the history of Eng/American literature — can't vouch for their accuracy, but it was interesting reading. One needn't be a physicist to appreciate this gem called "Elvin Uncertainty": "the more I know about the position of a relationship/the less I know about its velocity." Enjoyable, but a buck seems a little steep. (S-6) (pj)

★★★★★

NOON BLUE APPLES #3-#1,644,001 (? from Eric Wagner, 2080 E. Greenway, Tempe, AZ 85282): #3 of this broadsheet starts out with a few comments about sex and then jumps into the a 25 part poem called "an advent calendar: December 1-25, 1984." Each part remotely relates to the preceeding and following parts, the topics of family/sibilings/friends/25 Dec holding things together. Ingenious at times, but only at times. The one with the big number, apparently the next issue, features a longpoem "Fuck Management" that numbs with an overabundance of coarseness. (S-8) (pj/MG)

★★★★★

Richard Paul, **LA BELLE DAME** ($4.20 from 27 Park St. #4, Somerville, MA 02143): With intricate charcoal illustrations by James Edwards, this calls itself "a picture book of nursery rhymes for adults, prose and sonnets". Paul has a very sketchy style with words, never using three where one just might do, and so the reader has to work to be a part of this chapbook. My favorite is "Art World", a rather disjointed meander through a life without meaning, or perhaps with too much Meaning. (S-32t) (MG)

★★★★★

PERSONA NON GRATA CHAPETTES

Perhaps not less filling, but certainly smaller than the usual run of chapbooks. These are available for postage money — say about 65¢ a pop — from 7535 Calhoun, Dearborn, MI 48126.

- Tom House, **BUG GAME**: Harsh words about a society where pointless drug busts, sadistic sherriffs, and repressive laws still exist. Tom isn't interested in finding the good chunks of America, only in starkly outlining the bad, in a very few words. (D-8t) (MG)
- Todd Moore, **PLAYING POKER W/22 LONGS**: Todd Moore has one of the most distinct voices in the small press today. He writes short cascades of words that focus on small-town or big-city down and outers, folks who rape and kill and set fires and hang around in bars and lose fingers to chainsaws. One book of Moore poems is enough to clear your sinuses & make you move to the suburbs where it's safe. (D-8t) (MG)
- Kurt Nimmo, **IN GOD WE TRUST**: A very short story rather than poetry, but I wanted to keep all the chapettes together. Kurt writes htis time around of a man trying to come to grips with a world where activists get clubbed by brutal police while the generals laugh and pray to God. In the end, the story gets weird, but the hero gets going. (D-3t) (MG)
- Mike Walsh, **DAD PASTICHE**: A longish story with some short poems inserted. This is essentially the story of the Oedipus complex, of a boy's coming to terms with the mighty Father-figure, retold in terms of the modern American mythos: Disneyworld, cheap bars, the wide open west and so on. Amusing and a bit disturbing. (D-20t) (MG)

★★★★★

THE PLOWMAN #1-2 ($5.00 from Box 414, Whitby, Ontario, Canada L1N 5S4): Opposite a photo of a night-club stripper (doing a split on stage in front of a mirror) is this poem: "What magnificent girl you are!/The curve of your thighs/Is like the work of an artist" etc., etc. This and a few others are by T. Scavetta, ed.; many are written to christ, strippers, and pros. All poems of similar caliber. Imagine the audience. (S-40) (pj)

★★★★★

POETIC LIBERTY Vol. 2 #1 ($3.50 from Charles Corry, 3301 John Muir, Plano, TX 75023): Lots of poems here (and a bit of prose) and lots of natural imagery: pets, vegetation, long stretches of land. Lyn Lifshin shines with an introspective poem of winter in the Northeast, while Betty Benoit provides a shining bit of humor with "The Road Taken", complete with apologies to Robert Frost. PL runs quarterly contests and is picking up some very good submissions as a result. (D-58t) (MG)

★★★★★

POETRY MOTEL 14 ($3 from Suburban Wilderness Press, 510 N 17th Ave East, Duluth, MN 55812): A whole issue dedicated to 15 poems by Paul Weinman. Written in the 1st person, each poem provides another piece to a somewhat bizarre and puzzling episode that has our hero ripping-off a Greyhound bus and ending up in a wet spot in Albany's Washington Park. A fun and creative poetic odyssey. (HL-16) (pj)

★★★★★

POKED WITH STICKS II ($2 from 4015 Overland Pkwy., Toledo, OH 43612): It's dangerous to judge a poet by his writing, but it seems like these poems must come from wild-eyed frizzy-haired creatures who hang around bus stops late at night looking askance at strangers and muttering to themselves. John Bennett is perhaps the premiere exemplar of this, but plenty of other folks here provide poems close to the bone, Bob Phillips, Tom Barden, and Star Bowers among them. These words were not meant to comfort but to startle and shock, and they succeed. (M-32r) (MG)

★★★★★

Charles Rampp, **SOPHIA IN THE CITY** (75¢ from Angi, 1094 W. Pratt Blvd. #1E, Chicago, IL 60626): Unfortunately Charles is of the

write words
all over
like t his

school of poetry, which I find frankly annoying. There is a quiet voice of wonder at the world buried in this booklet, but it's not helped by the paragraphing calisthenics. Send it back for more reasonable refinement and try again. (D-32t) (MG)

★★★★★

RANSOM #4 ($3 from Alan Howard, PO Box 1386, Columbia, SC 29202-1386): Though they welcome prose submissions this issue is in fact all poetry. Paul Weinman contributes a poem of surreal bureaucracy, removed from but kindred to his "White Boy" series, while Lyn Lifshin compresses the agony of war into a dozen short lines. Lots more here too, with offerings from Oberc and Hogg and Niditch and Kittell included. (D-28) (MG)

★★★★★

RAW BONE 12 ($1 (?) from Tom House, PO Box 120661, Nashville, TN 37212): Just what the title says: poetry that doesn't screw around but gets right to the point, mostly an unpleasant one. Sex and death and lynchings and life as a gypsy biker are some of the themes in this issue. (D-8) (MG)

★★★★★

Steve Richmond, **DEMON NOTEBOOK** ($2 from Water Row Press, PO Box 438, Sudbury, MA 01776): Gagaku music and intermittent drug use bring out Steve's demons, but he seems quite inured to this prospect. Indeed, these poems are in the main a clinical examination of these demons and their relationship to his life and work. Self-inspection that's scary in its detachment. (D-33) (MG)

★★★★★

RIVER RAT REVIEW 3 ($3 from Daryl Rogers, PO Box 24198, Lexington, KY 40524): After reading the short poem "when shelly" that sits in the upper left-hand corner of page 2, I was certain that someone was co-opting Todd Moore's style; not to worry, just Todd Moore opening the show with another unsettling performance. And if that ain't enough to wake you then try P. McKinnon's "walking down amber drive." Sheryl Nelms has a couple of memorable pieces, and all in all this no-nonsense black & white poetry zine has a helluva lot of class. (D-32) (pj)

★★★★★

Laurie Schneider, **CHRONICLE** (? from Score, 491 Mandana Blvd #3, Oakland, CA 94610): A 12 part journal-like chapbook which poetically documents one person's "1987." The entries are disjointed, disembodying, and disenchanting. If a couple of other people felt this way our world would quickly be in disarray.... References to poets/poetry detract from the otherwise novel presentation, but still interesting. (HL-20) (pj)

★★★★★

SCOREBROADSIDES (SASE (?) from 2625 Ivy Dr. #9, Oakland, CA 94606): Single-page excursions on heavy cardstock. The first of the pair is Jean Paul Curtay's "Body Sound Art Manifesto", a piece which flows down the page while celebrating the joys of improvisation. Even more curious is Peter Mayer's "Visual Hornbook", an alternative alphabet that gradually deteriorates into scribbles resembling letters as all language is lost. (S-1) (MG)

★★★★★

SCORE SHEET 11 ($1 per 4 from Score, 491 Mandana Blvd #3, Oakland, CA 94610): An irregular broadsheet of visual poetry. This one focuses on "word-drawings" by the Hungarian artist/writer Im Kiss. Although these works were enjoyable, I was most fascinated by a piece called "Nocturne" by Bob Grumman. The word "sunlight" is repeated on the page in columnar format, but the "sun" part slowly sinks beneath the line so that the lower portions of the letters are cut off as if the line were the horizon. At the same time, the "l" in "light" gradually droops over into an "n," and of course it is then "night." You gotta see this one. (S-6) (pj)

★★★★★

SCORE SHEET 11-17 ($1/4 issues from 491 Mandana Blvd. #3, Oakland, CA 94610): A page at a time of experimental poetic work. On some of these pages the artists work with the photocopier to distort and diffuse reality, as Jurgen Olbrich does in #11 and Jack Moskovitz in #14. Other bits are more intriguing, as with the multiple-colored dream-poem lost in an ocean of blue-green ink created by Wally Depew for #12. #16 has an interesting example of proto-concrete poetry from the eighteenth century. (S-1) (MG)

★★★★★

Clifton Snider, **IMPERVIOUS TO PIRANHAS** ($4 from The Academic & Arts Press, PO Box 1621, Pueblo, CO 81002): Snider writes with an extreme economy of words, and focuses most of this book on one subject: pain felt by people. This ranges from the aches of hepatitis to emotional pain to the pain of relationships, but all in all, it's pretty depressing. Still, he does get at some gleaming insights, as in "Janis": "You screamed out/the woman in you:/a lemon/pressed &/squeezed,/only the rind/& the seeds/left." (D-28) (MG)

★★★★★

SOLO FLYER #8-9 ($3/8 copies from David McCoy, 2115 Clearview NE, Massillon, OH 44646): Quick showcases of individual poets. #8 is by Mark Salerno, who provides three wistful pieces with a natural feel. #9 is Walt Franklin, who provides a series of meditations on the spring and its signs. (D-4) (MG)

★★★★★

STARLINE vol 11 #4 ($8/year from 2012 Pyle Road, Schenectady, NY 12303): A bimonthly poetry zine from the Science Fiction Poetry Association. As you might expect, the poems are science fiction based, with just a touch of science fantasy to keep you all honest. A year's subscription entitles you to a copy of the *Rhysling Anthology*, which I guess is a compilation of works previously published in the zine. Suggested for those with strong interest in science fiction. (D-18) (pj)

★★★★★

Andy Takakjian, **ZEN ON RYE** (Mostly Underground, PO Box 5953, Huntington Beach, CA 92646): The nice thing about Zen, from the poetic point of view, is that you can publish almost any old nonsense and get away with it. This reads like a parody of zen teachings, with masters and students throwing furniture through one another's windows. (M-8r) (MG)

★★★★★

THOUSAND POINTS OF LIGHT SUTRA #1-3 (25¢ postage from Persona Non Grata, 7535 Calhoun, Dearborn, MI 48126): Short showcases of a single poet each. #1 has Paul Weinman with more than the White Boy poms. #2 is a single poem, "January's Hades", by Tammy Anderson, a surreal sexual affair. #3 features three poems from Dean Creighton, a poet of the heartland's aspirations, such as they are. (D-4t) (MG)

★★★★★

TOOK 12 (? from Edward Mycue, Box 640543, San Francisco, CA 94164-0543): It's difficult to tell what's going on in this one because of the shoddy presentation. I assume all the poetry is by Honor Johnson. "Gogol Revisited" is a good example of the surreal verse: "...It alters her thought/ and we all say good she will be less of a problem now so/that is her story and like poison ivy so delicate on the/shower curtains and decorating the walls." H. Johnson's careful work belongs elsewhere. (D-8r) (pj)

★★★★★

TOOK 17 (? from Edward Mycue, Box 640543, San Fransisco, 94164-0543): Mycue discusses "methodology and sequence" in an almost "bullet- type" format, though certain bullets are actually quite long. It's a clever discussion moving from tedious to thoughtful and at times to downright funny. A poem by Honor Johnson called "(You Wouldn't Believe...)" is tacked on the end, but it's barely memorable. (S-24) (pj)

★★★★★

THE UNDERGROUND FOREST 5 ($3 from 21 Forest Ave, Portland, ME 04101): A zine with poetry and articles focused on Latin America. Half is in English and half is in Spanish. My intuition says that this would be valuable reading to those who have taken a personal interest in the affairs of our neighbors to the south. There's some interesting history in the articles. Overall, this is more for the activist than the poetry enthusiast. (O-48) (pj)

★★★★★

VORTEXT PUBLICATIONS (2132 2nd Ave. #305, Seattle, WA 98121) sent along a couple of untitled mini- and micro-chapbooks. They feature a variety of collages, photocopy-massaged texts, and short poems. It looks like they'd be more open to trade than cash, particualry if you have something esoteric to offer. (MG)

★★★★★

Sigmund Weiss, **VAMPIRE THEOLOGY** ($3 (?) from Angi, 1094 W. Pratt #1E, Chicago, IL 60626): An impressive collection of twisty poems that are very hard to pin down. Weiss's writing is like Dali's paintings. Each individual bit makes perfect sense, and yet the whole is disturbingly wrong, or at least Different. A roller-coaster ride through strange universes of thought. (D-74) (MG)

★★★★★

Paul Weinman, **THE BOY PAPERS** (? from 79 Cottage Ave, Albany, NY 12203): Pieces of letter size paper compartmented by a grid-like pattern of dashed/solid line (cut on solid, fold on dashed). Each compartment has thoughts by "White Boy" on different aspects of that paper's theme. Two themes were addressed in the ones I read: cigarette smoking and the homeless. Insightful, with extremely dry humor, pushing arid. Send Paul some stamps and see what you get in return. (S-1) (pj)

★★★★★

Paul Weinman, **THREE FINGERS** ($2.50 from Box 392, Portlandville, NY 13834): These poems conjure up the image of a classic romantic who stuffs his mattress with poems written to his love. It's boy and girl and memories of the parents' place on the lake. Although there's an authentic passion which gives this special life, the imagery borders on the mundane, often repetitively: all kinds of waves "slapping" the shore, etc. Some fine craftwork is detectable, but the poems suffer from inbreeding. (D-32) (pj)

POETRY NOTES

•Kindred Spirit Press (Rt. 2 Box 111, St. John, KS 67576) is conducting a poetry contest with a $100 first prize. Drop 'em an SASE for details. They're also after book-length poetry manuscripts worth publishing.

why publish?
N.G. MCCLERNAN ©1987

Victor Brotte, **PAGAN FREE PRESS:**

We all need a creative outlet. Publishing is less messy than oil painting. It's also cheaper to mail and fits better in friends' mailboxes.

★★★★★

Charles Corry, **POETIC LIBERTY**

There's a distinction between "why did I publish" and "why do I publish." I started publishing because of a heart attack and the doctor's statement that I was 46 going on 76 and retirement was the only above-ground option. My god! I was about to die and for forty-six years all I had done was piss time away. All of a sudden I was overwhelmed with the need to leave something behind besides a headstone. As an at best mediocre writer, I knew there were no book awards and probably no books on the horizon; so, I spent $5000 of the insurance money on a word processor and first-rate copy machine. Presto: **POETIC LIBERTY.** That's the "why did I publish" story.

Now for why I do publish: after spending all that money on equipment, my wife would kill me if I didn't use it. Besides, working on the next issue beats the hell out of watching soap operas, and getting all the mail is a kick.

★★★★★

Craig Blomquist, **Cud Brain Tapes**

The reason I put out compilation tapes is to expand people's musical arenas. Most labels stick to one type of music, and that's why I believe the alternative music scen is so stagnated.

Another reason for putting out tapes is so people will hear new bands. Few people want to try out new bands because they don't know what they are getting. If they hear a few songs on a comp they might buy that bands EP/LP in the future.

Of course doing tapes has the fringe benefit of receiving free tapes. What you won't receive is lots of money or a lot of recognition. Compilations are hardly ever taken seriously, because most of them are just slapped together and of poor sound quality. Hopefully that will change, but as long as there's any 14 year old kids who think they can make some quick money off of comps, comps will (for the most part) be of below average quality.

Before I leave I have a comment for zine people. Give your totally honest opinion of material. Don't say a band is great just because they are young, or because you're friends with the,. If you say a band's great and a newcomer to the alternative music scene buys the tape and it's a piece of crap, you may lose that person from the "scene" forever. One final reason to publish — you meet lots of great people and can make some good friends.

★★★★★

Larry Dennis, **EOTU:**

I had this great job where I had some extra money (discretionary income), which I promptly spent each payday on drugs and alcohol and women. I also had a passion for experimental fiction, for stories that try to do something new or different with the English language. One night, while sitting in front of my word processor, aflight on the latest hashish, awash in Southern Comfort, with Laurie Anderson explaining in my ear how language is a virus (we infect each other with what we say), the universe came to a point. **EOTU** was born.

Of course, as the Universe is wont to do, things have become different. The good job is gone. I drive a cab and do odd jobs and get by and though **EOTU** kind of pays for itself, it doesn't always and on Print Days I find myself working double shifts and borrowing money from friends and generally beginning to wonder "Why Publish?"

And the answer is that each of us listed here in **FACTSHEET FIVE** has been given special abilities and talents, desire, to expand the edges of human experience further than it has ever been expanded before. Whether fiction, or music, or works of art, to do less than our best with our talents is to do harm to the glory that is our destiny.

Yeah, yeah, I know. I'm waxing poetic. Sorry 'bout that. But, really. Shouldn't there be more to life than drinking and screwing and getting high? Shouldn't there also be some glory in our growth?

Well, I gotta go now. Talk to ya later, eh?

★★★★★

Guttorm Norde, **EL DJARIDA:**

Why publish? Why breathe, why eat, why sleep? Publishing is an art, and art is of deep necessity. During the last centuries all true, avant-gardistic, important movements have been born and developed inside the subculture, the "underground" spheres of society. Last decade have exposed a gigantic growth of global networks: it's nothing but a revolution going on (and the zine-movement are a most solid part of it): establishing of communication/dialogue between creative individuals on a world-wide scale — this is a most forceful fact right now: it's a big movement at arrival: ten-thousands of active people, working to express themselves (creatively / spiritually / communicate) through the fields of art.

An awareness showing "our" civilization's near the edge of a great collapse, makes people go and seek for more "obscure", "irrational" sources which might connect their Selves to re-newed views on and understanding on/of existence. Roots, sources....close to God. Truly, one easier discovers the Roots of Being through expressions of/impressions from (and closeness to) any Art-form: be it music, literature, Visual Arts, Theater, Ballet, Cinema, etc. — our only hope for survival will include Art, Humility and Religion as main-paths to walk. Last decades the Machiens of Destruction have turned up their power output switches. And — that's too the only reason behind all "protesting"/alternative movements which have appeared — construction always walks close with destruction: one energy's overload gives "positive" impulses for the other's growth...

Living in the middle of WWIII (which has been constantly on since 1945) we'd just neglect involving us in the World War by raising anti-weapons: Loaded with Art. Art always leads from introspection towards action. Art keeps on falling down from Heaven, down upon our sceptres, sinks deep into our hearts/selves, and from within it'll stimulate and tell us what a View on the World really could mean, for one and eachof us as momentary points within Mankind.

I publish because I am you, or said more exact: because I'm a part of "We". In this moment, when reading these lines, *you* are me. And I'm you when reading/seeing your words/visuals/zine. We (all of us, single) are "We". We are being single-spots inside "The Total We-Network", connected on a spiritual level: when I act or think in a specific way, I'm a contemporary part of everyone else who acts/thinks the same way.

The entity "We" is now rising higher, far and wide. Soon "We" might evolve itself as a huge global movement. "We" are nothing but you. Or me. And that's too *why* I want to continue publishing —mass-reproduce our Art/Communication/Expressions. Someone has got to do it, and someone is "We".

Let's expand: now it's on time starting *connecting* these different Networks of musicians, Zine-people, mailartists, Actionists, Anarchists, esoteric spiritual organizations, etc., etc. Let's try to make the Gigantic Connection/Conspiracy.

And meanwhile (for God's sake): contribute to zines, projects, whatever! The reason I reply to this column is because I publish FF.

★★★★★

Bob Conrad, **THIS ZINE SUCKS**

"Why do you do this?" is the question I hear the most and a question that I really have a hard time trying to answer. The reasons have changed from why it started three years ago to why I put myself through the "trouble" of doing the next issue. **THIS ZINE SUCKS** started, I guess, because I wanted to become part of the local underground music scene. I have no talent musically, wasn't crazy enough to try to hold shows and actually didn't consider myself a good writer. But a fanzine seemed like a simple thing to do. Wrong. It was simple for the first crummy 12 page issue with no artwork. But then the problems started. People asked "When's the next one coming out?" But it was fun in its own way. So I kept doing it and with each issue it improved bit by bit. Just the satisfaction of completing an issue and some kind reviews kept me going. The last two or three issues have been the hardest, though. With each one I say to myself "This is it. No more." But something keeps me going. Usually it is encouragement from friends or a kind letter in the mail or a favorable review someplace. It has become my number one hobby (so much for collecting baseball cards). I enjoy all the people I have met and the friends I have made. A fanzine is a labor of love. Right now that sense of accomplishment keeps me publishing.

★★★★★

Richard W. Shannon, **TRAJECTORIES**

I made an important realization lately. As a kid growing up, I used to draw the Marvel comics characters all over everything. I read every title (including **SGT. FURY**, **RAWHIDE KID**, and **MILLIE THE MODEL**) the company put out, plus several DC and Charlton titles. I always thought I wanted to be a comic artist and sf illustrator. I wasn't until recently I realised I wanted to be Stan Lee and *control* things instead of just drawing. I want to totally create a project, to control every aspect of a regular creative outlet. I wanted to help provide a means for new writers and artists to market their work. I guess I can best express it by borrowing the words of a fellow artist and friend, Texas surrealist painter Danny Gillis, and that is "I do it out of a desire to make a lasting artistic statement." With **TRAJECTORIES**, that dream is becoming a reality. At our publication we have a belief that science fiction is the redefining of the collective myth in modern terms. We feel that ideas are "out there" and that we tap into them. Consider this evidence — in an interview recently with Robert Anton Wilson, it came to light that he and his wife publish a newsletter on futurism, and have been at it for a couple of years. As near as I can determine, Mr. Wilson and I had similar ideas at almost the same time (maybe to the day). The title of Robert Anton Wilson's newsletter? **TRAJECTORIES**. The two titles, similar in nature if not in format, have both been published for the same length of time, each unknown to the other. So why do I publish? Because Ghod makes me.

★★★★★

Lisa Herskovits, **MODERN GIRLZ** and **BIKINI GIRL**:

I started publishing in 1976. I did five issues of a magazine called **MODERN GIRLZ**. I did it because I loved reading strange things and I couldn't get enough of 'em, so I got involved myself. I was very lonely and bored (this was in Ohio, where I come from) and I ran with a pack of rowdy lesbians at the time. I was very young — around 19 — and a lot of things didn't make sense to me. Like, "being female" — was I really supposed to get my hair done and wear perfume and makeup and be a slave to men? Or do the same, and be a slave to women, like those lesbians? I didn't know and I also wanted to provoke people and get 'em thinking — which they didn't seem to do much of back in Ohio. I was a student of graphic design and I was very interested in doing cut-up stuff, like those poison-pen style punk graphics made from nonsensical trash tabloid headlines. I had a policy of publishing absolutely anything that was contributed. I figured, who am I to judge? Which is kind of cool and kind of dumb at the same time. Patti Smith used to contribute to MG a lot but I couldn't make much sense of what she sent me. (I published it anyway, of course, and was thrilled to get her to send stuff.)

I moved to NYC in late 1977 and kept on publishing. Early in 1978 I was madly in love with a punk rock singer and finally, at the age of 20, relinquished my virginity, only to find that Catholics make great punks but the really only want to marry virgins. I got dumped and was out of my mind with grief. I had a kind of psychedelic/religious experience and became obsessed witht he color pink. I started doing **BIKINI GIRL** and really made that the main focus of my life for several years. I'd hold benefits at trendy clubs to raise money for myself so I could publish, I don't have the guts to do that today.

A lot of the imagery of BG had to do with my being a stranger in a very strange land. I was very innocent and was suddenly trying to survive inthe Lower East Side. I went to Chinese movies, ate cheap with Ukranians and listened to them tell me about how Uknrainia is not Russia, and fell in with an East Village crowd. Recording the visual mish-mash I had around me, as well as my continuing confusion about women and how they act and look to attract men and stuff like that, kept me going, and people sent me odd scraps of paper with provocative images on 'em.

I am going to do a new **BIKINI GIRL** this Spring with desktop publishing, I got a scanner and a tough computer and a dot-matrix printer but will get a lazer soon, I hope. I'm not at all sure what **BIKINI GIRL** means but I just have to keep doing it — of that I am certain. And to all others who must publish, I try to give as much support as possible. I tell people to read these things and I review them on my sporadic radio show. This type of publishing is extremely important. It's really freedom of speech and freedom of the press and besides, doing your own little zine is more constructive than sitting around watching teevee drinking keer (which I love, too, I'm not *totally* knocking that) but if even only three people ever read your zine and are intrigued and delighted and shocked by what they see, hey, that is good enough — it just is. Zines are a form of art and we are artists.

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BLOODY F. MESS, "That's Entertainment" ($20 *CASH* from 5523 Montello Dr., Peoria, IL 61614): Despite the concert footage, this is more of a video scrapbook than a rock video. Over the past couple of years, Bloody has managed to get himself taped quite a few times. Here's what you'll get on this compilation: First, live in Peoria and then in studio in Peoria, a few loud tracks with his band Hate. Then there are three tracks from a show at Illinois Central College, including a bizarre version of "White Christmas" and lots of shots of punkers in full regalia. This is followed by what I found the most interesting part of the tape, a series on the punk subculture by the local ABC-TV affiliate, together with the full tape of the interview (including parts that couldn't be used on the air). This is where you can find out Bloody's real name if you care to. Finally there's some practice footage of Bloody and the band the Niggers, chewing out some more thrashing punk rock. The video equivalent of indie tapes and garage rock.

★★★★★

REAL GEORGE'S BACKROOM TV #84-85 (PO Box 3111, Albany, NY 12203): This is our local alternative music cable show, and it's pretty good. George (also editor of the **BUZZ**) gets a couple of videos on every show (nice one from Devo leading off #84) as well as live music and interviews. #84 features the Pedal Jets from Kansas City. #85 has a truly horrible Miracle Legion interview, offset a bit by videos from Billy Bragg and Marshmallow Overcoat as well as a surprise appearance by the Bay City Rollers. 30 minute shows. I don't know if you can buy copies, but if you're doing an alternative TV thing yourself, get in touch.

★★★★★

THE STRECKER MEMORANDUM ($35 from C&C Marketing, 12336 Penn St., Whittier, CA 90602): "Strecker" is Dr. Robert B. Strecker, trained as an Internist, Pharmacologist and Pathologist. The tape is a no-frills account of his theories on AIDS. Basically, he thinks it's a man-made disease, produced by recombinant work on sheep and cattle retroviruses and then adapted to human tissues by growth in human tissue cultures; that it was spread by WHO smallpox inoculations in Africa and Hepatitis-B vaccinations in America; and that it's going to wipe us all out unless something is done in a hurry. This thesis is hard to believe on two counts. First, of course, the medical establishment says completely different things about AIDS. Second, there are already plenty of crackpot theories around about it being germ warfare by one government or another. However, Strecker does not appear to be a raving lunatic. He's a sane, well-read doctor, who can cite sources (sometimes, admittedly, tenuous ones) for most of his assertions, making this better footnoted than any crackpot presentation I know of. Sometimes it appears he goes overboard in contradicting the establishment view of things — his statistics on the number of possible AIDS viruses, for example, are exaggerated, unless you believe that the virus could mutate all of its genes at once and still cause AIDS. But I can understand his desire to state the case forcefully. And although he brings in what seems like a nonsenical proposal for a cure at the end (irradiation with the resonant frequency of the virus to blow it apart without hurting the patient) he's not selling anything or making a pitch for patients, so sincerity is on his side. In sum, I guess I would put the case as "not proven" — but the same applies to the more accepted theories about AIDS. I'm not convinced by anything yet.

★★★★★

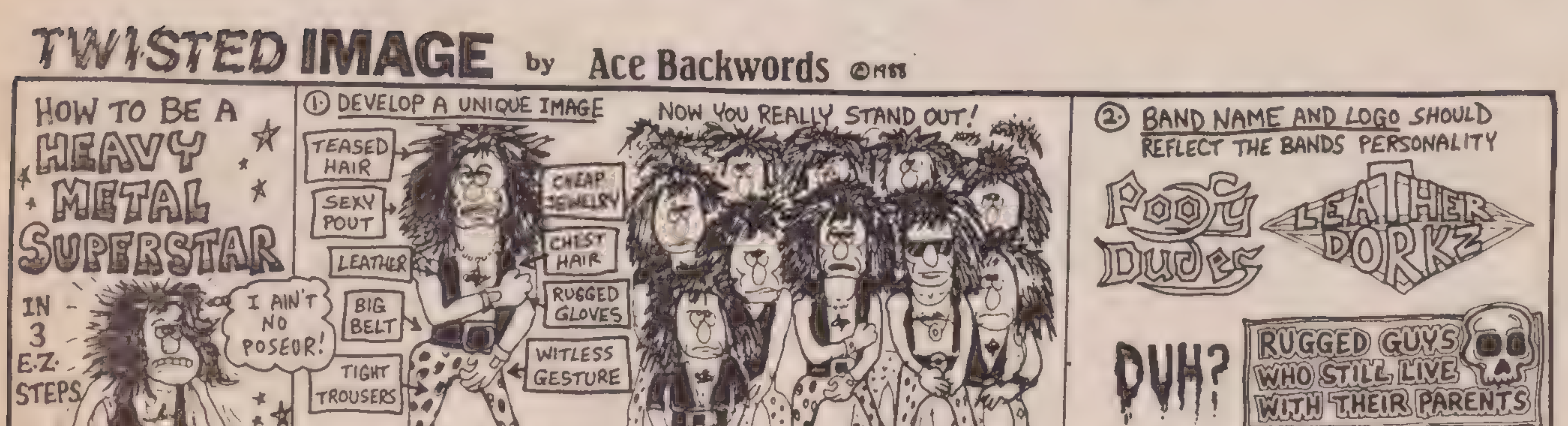
tentatively, a convenience, "Homeless Movies" ($20 from Widemouth tapes, PO Box 382 CR, Baltimore, MD 21203): An outgrowth of tent's 4-month trip to England and France in mid-1988. It's a mix of documentation, performance art, processed video, and "vaudio" — which, as near as I can figure, is a sort of lo-fi video recorded on hi-bias audio tape. The latter is done through the "busking unit", a 60-pound assemblage of electronics that allows all sorts of audio and video processing in almost any locale that it can be lugged to, thanks to built-in batteries. Tent's companion Laura Adele Trussell figures prominently in these performances, but so do other members of the Philosopher's Union; about twenty people take an active part. Bits range from extreme close-ups of mouths spouting nonsense, an underground performance in eerie black-and-white, a naked tent wearing a Donald Duck mask (so as to appear to be a fellow sea creature) making the acquaintance of a seal, a map of Scotland being drawn on a back, the cops moving a sidewalk show on, and more. Sort of three-to-five-dimensional mail art. Not for the *too* easily offended; besides the nudity there's some micturation and a brief scene of drilling holes in a rather large simulated penis. tent has also prepared a 68-page book of documentation, **YET ANOTHER SLOW-BURNING FEAST OF A FEW MONTHS MISCHIEF IN THE U.K., MAYBE**, which you can probably score for about $5.

★★★★★

VIDEO NOTES:

•Duff Hendrickson (31 Broadway #508, Tacoma, WA 98402) is offering "Strange Day on Maui", rare footage of Jimi Hendrix on VHS, for $16.50.

•Open Video (215 North Ave. West #21, Westfield, NJ 07090) is accepting VHS and 8mm submissions for "a compilation tape of experimental, erotic, documentary, and literary footage suitable for public access broadcasting." Their first deadline is May 1st.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RUGGED GLOVES
WITLESS GESTURE
NOW YOU REALLY STAND OUT!
② BAND NAME AND LOGO SHOULD REFLECT THE BANDS PERSONALITY
POOCY DUDES
LEATHER DORKZ
DUH?
RUGGED GUYS WHO STILL LIVE WITH THEIR PARENTS
③ MUSICIANSHIP
LEARN SEVERAL CHORDS (OPTIONAL)

AUDIO
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★★★★★

Reviews this time around are by the Aeditor (MG), Carol schutzbank (CS) and our latest addition to the staph, Ken Johnson (KJ).

★★★★★

2 CAR FAMILY, "Look for More..." ($3 from 1501 Rhode Island, Lawrence, KS 66044): A short tape from a group that plays a sort of pop/hardcore crossover. They have the rhythms of hardcore, especially on some fast songs, but not a thrash and burn mentality. The lyrics are sort of fuzzy, allowing room for thought while still setting a basic feel of hope and haunting. (T/MG)

★★★★★

2 MINUTES 50, "In America" b/w "Faceless" (Channel 83, PO Box 7303, Minneapolis, MN 55407): Despite a firm grasp of music industry fundamentals (i.e., keep the songs short), about the best you can say about this band is that they're unoffensive. Pop-rock with a good beat, dispensable lyrics, and decent production. (45/MG)

★★★★★

ACID REIGN, self-titled (PO Box 1181, Port Perry, ONT, L0B 1N0, CANADA): These guys play a sort of underground pop rife with strange hooks and excursions — vaguely reminiscent of the Mekons in their eclecticism, but only vaguely so. They've got quite an attitude about life, pelting us with "Nuclear War is a Bore", "Solar Powered Hippy" and "Rat Race for Face" along with a selection of love songs. Mildly psychedelic but impossible to pigeonhole and with a musical range that gives real character to the different tracks, these guys get better with repeated playings. (T/MG)

★★★★★

ALIEN SEX FIEND, "Another Planet" (Caroline Records, 5 Crosby St., New York, NY 10013): Alien indeed. This album starts with a breathtaking blast of heavy-rhythm synthesis called "Bun-Ho!" and only gets more intense from there. ASF produce a music of choppy sounds, eerie vocals, and condensed guitar to take your speakers by storm. Comes complete with a newsletter from the group explaining tongue-in-cheekishly the rock-operatic significance of the songs and their own larger place in history. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

ALL, "Allroy For Prez" (Cruz Records, PO Box 7756, Long Beach, CA 90807): It'll probably take a few records for the critics to stop writing cute things about their name and citing their lineage (Descendents & Dag Nasty), but the music demands a listen apart from All (oops) that. This is pop-styled, but faster and louder and more electric. Songs of love and life, hype and lies, the emotional slurp that used to pervade top 40 (maybe still does) — but to a harder, heftier music. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

GG ALLIN, "Freaks, Faggots, Drunks & Junkies" (Homestead Records, PO Bopx 800, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0800): After a while GG ceases to be shocking, despite singing about rape and death and grody sexual practices. Instead, it's just more of the same on this man's trip to nowhere. Worse yet, the recording quality on this one is pretty crappy — as GG says "If you want perfection, go buy someone else's record". One might add, do the same if you want musical talent or good taste. The musical equivalent of the Roman Arena — a spectacle for the masses. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

ERIC AMBEL, "Roscoe's Gang" (Enigma Records, PO Box 3628, Culver City, CA 90231-3628): Fun-loving blues-tinged rock from Eric and half a dozen friends. Eric is from the Del-Lords and the liner notes say of the band "all people who can kick ass and get laid". They also play darned good music, including versions of classics like "30 Days in the Workhouse". "Don't Wanna Be Your Friend" is another hot rocker, a love song with punch. Made to listen to with American beer and poker games. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

BO ANDERSON, "Deaf Child" (2401 Killarney Way, Bellevue, WA 98004): Somewhat droning gloom-pop produced with the use of synths, effects, and a few guitars, as well as found sounds and vocals. Probably the best track here is the closing "You Are Dead", which uses distorted voice and distressing tones to make its essentially downer point. (T/MG)

★★★★★

RON ANDERSON, "Happy New Year" (Sound of Pig Music, 28 Bellingham Ln., Great Neck, NY 11023): It's hard to believe that this was recorded over 5 years ago (some of it at a cool little experimental spot near and dear to my heart that's long since become an all-too cliche disco). The synthesizer music, slightly experimental, would once have been considered very avant-garde, but today fits right in with the norm. The overall sound is slightly muted and wandering, but it's still pretty neat. (T/CS)

★★★★★

ANIMATION FESTIVAL, "Exalted" (Harsh Reality, P.O. Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661). The ten expansions of a common theme will drive this cassette onto your must play list. Imagine a slower Big Black with only one guitarist, a synthesizer and a dash of musique concrete. Don't let the synthesizer turn you off — this is real music. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

A.P.P.L.E., "Plutocracy = Tyranny & Exploitation" ($6 from Vinyl Communications, PO Box 8623, Chula Vista, CA 92012): Hardcore anarcho-punk from New York City's finest. About half the songs here, including the dynamite cover of "Blowin' In The Wind" are from their tape of a few years back, but the sound quality is better and the new ones are worth having too. Comes with a somewhat heavy-handed lyric booklet (they take sincerity to extremes in their anxiety about the world). "Impeach Reagan" is probably the heaviest hitter here — better late than never. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

A:SOUNDTRACKS, self-titled ($7 *CASH* from Knall Syndicate, Box 4386, Hospitalslokkan, 7002 Trondheim, NORWAY): Rather harsh and metallic (in the sense of big sheets of metal, not killer guitars) instrumental works with vocals that are shouted or growled over the top. (Whatever sense there is is in Norwegian, but I suspect even there the voice is just another instrument). Toothache rhythms make the whole rather abusive to the casual listener, but will delight the collector of noise. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BAD MUTHA GOOSE AND THE BROS. GRIMM, "Rev It Up!!" (BBA Mgt., 1107 Music Ln., Austin, TX 78704): High-power funk with a humorous edge. The title cut, available in two mixes, stands out: a bizarre rap near-parody reciting the evils of driving in the same way that some rappers grind on about the evils of drugs. Other cuts are "Texas" and "Jump the Funk", all five-minute-plus extravaganzas of interwoven vocals and heavily rhythmic music. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

BAREFOOT & PREGNANT, demo tape (Margot Mifflin, 157 Huntington St. #4, Brooklyn, NY 11231): Even though this mostly-female band is trying to undo the damage done to women musicians by the likes of Whitney Houston & Madonna, Margot says they're more interested in music than gender, and that shows here. This is fast-paced garage-sounding rock, with bits of psychedelia laced in. Obviously they're having fun playing and at the end of 3 songs I was left panting for more. "27 17s", the final cut, is really high-power and good fun, building to fever pitch before an abrupt ending. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BED OF NAILS, "Prey Upon the Wheel" (Vore Productions, 2536 Fifth Ave., S., Minneapolis, MN 55404): Densely layered dark and foreboding tracks from these peurveyors of "dirge-pop". The works here are extended and have a nice chewy texture, headed up by vocals from the mysterious Data. In the title cut, she screams "Do you think it was easy? Do you think it was fun?", a pair of questions which I take to be emblematic of their doomridden approach to the world. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

JAKE BERRY, "Protonon" ($4 from Al Margolis, Sound of Pig, 28 Bellingham Ln., Great Neck, NY 11023): An aural whirlwind, the analogy of Jake's very enigmatic poetry. The ten pieces here take basic sounds — clanks and whines and tones and vocals — and combine and re-combine them in a constrained but dynamic dance. It's not easy to listen to, but it is deeply affecting, like being washed over by a wave of music reduced to its basics. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DR. PETER BETER, "Audio Letter #46 ($4 from Tim Cridland, PO Box 85874, Seattle, WA 98145): Far-out conspiracy theory from a decade ago. Beter inhabits a world where Bolshevik Robotoids have been substituted for the President and his advisors, where Cosmospheres whisk doubles around the world for secret conferences, where the Rockefellers and Rothschilds are trying to control everything. Just about the nuttiest stuff I've ever heard spoken with an apparently straight face. (T/MG)

★★★★★

B IS FOR BRYAN "...It's Not What We Really Wanted" ($3 from Kyle Hogg, 2211 Stuart Ave., Richmond, VA 23220): A collection of stuff from Kyle and friends which includes rockin' covers of tunes from "Twist and Shout" to "Something in the Wind", which tend to fade away when they can't remember any more chords or words, bits of a Star Trek takeoff, found noises, random laughing, 12-string studies, and other sonic tidbits. No theme, but the price is right and some of it is pretty well done. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BLACK RITUAL, "Evil Madness Dwells" (c/o Joe Mellon Jr., 428 Eden Park Blvd., McKeesport, PA 15132): I don't understand why these guys apologize about the production here; this two-track tape sounds a helluva lot better than lots of vinyl I've had to sit through. BR play strong metal, with lots of heavy-duty guitar moves and rather ominous lyrics (one song in fact is called "Ominous Terror") that combine to put the Fear into the casual listener. As a young group, they could be one to watch in coming years. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BLOODY MESS & HATE, "Alive in '85!!!!!!" ($4 *CASH* from 5523 Montello Dr., Peoria, IL 61614): A just-released live archival recording of raw punk power. The set starts out with "Morals Don't Exist!!!", moves on through such numbers as "I'm Glad Sid's Dead" and "Officer Friendly" and finally degenerates into end of the show silliness with about the worst-ever "Louie Louie" and "Happy Trails". Bloody is rude, uncontrolled and unpredictable, and his band has the right combination of passion and clumsiness to make this part of the true punk spirit. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BLUE ORCHESTRA, "This is a Perception" (Office Records, PO Box 1792, Eau Claire, WI 54701): Pretty simple synth music with clear-as-a-bell tones (though for some reason the Jetsons theme creeps in as background noise at one point). If it were not for that and a few similar aberrations, this would qualify as New Age music. As it is, it's pretty close: pleasant to listen to, but rather forgettable. (T/MG)

★★★★★

ISAAC BONEWITS AND FRIENDS, "Be Pagan Once Again!" ($12 from ADF, Box 1022-R, Nyack, NY 10960): This is the first album of music by and for pagans that I've heard, though I'm sure there are others. It's a nice collection, mostly quite majestic pieces (with the notable exception of "The Wizard", a cute little filksong), ranging in mood from joyful to somber. Included are circle casting and closing pieces, rousing calls to fight injustice, and ballads of underground Wicca in days gone by. A nice job, although a bit pricey. (T/MG)

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★★★★★

BONGOS, BASS & BOB, "Never Mind the Sex Pistols, Here's Bongos Bass & Bob (What On Earth Were They Thinking???)" (50 Zillion Watts Records, 5721 SE Laguna Ave., Stuart, FL 34997): Wow. It's been a long time since a record captured my fancy quite like this one has. An initial listen will relegate this to the "novelty" category, but please, son't stop there. Yes, the lyrics are bizarre, witty, twisted, weird and incredibly humorous. (Never have I heard an ode to love more potent than here). But really listen to the music. The styles and influences run the gamut, and, more importantly, underneath the craziness these guys can play. There's gold in them thar hills, fellas! This is not a one-shot band who's just blasted their first and last load on to your turntable. This is a band who will last — if only you will listen long enough to let them. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

BOUNCING OFF BOB, "Cha Cha Cha at the Coral Reef" (110 Bloomfield St., Hoboken, NJ 07030): Pop-rock that' pretty definitely in the mainstream — the reference points are early Springsteen and early Cars, with a bit of rockabilly flavor thrown in for variety. That doesn't prevent them from doing nice, catchy songs, though. In particular, "Bedside Manners" (the obligatory confused-about-sex song) is nicely done, and "Dear Editor" takes a novel form to cast an old love story in. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

MARC BRISTOL, "Talkin' to Ralf (on the big white telephone)" & "Let's Shake It" ($3 from King Noodle Records, PO Box 25, Duvall, WA 98019): A cassette single marred only by slightly dull recording on the first track. Marc plays good old fashioned rock and roll, and on "Talkin' to Ralf" he takes a common topic, treats it humorously, and has a ball. "Let's Shake It" is lighter, a song of love for a night in the tradition of letting the good times roll. Great Peter Bagge cover illustration too. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE BUD COLLINS TRIO, "Kongsoontorncharden" (50 Thompson Rd., North Franklin, CT 06254): Really nifty rock and roll from a five-piece where everybody vocalizes and everybody has fun. The music varies from bouncy humorous near-acoustic numbers to Pink Floydish romps through musical houses of mirrors. Whatever they do they do with verve, and the energy is infectious. I'll be playing this one again. Wish there was a lyric sheet, though. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BURNING SPATULA, "Got Live If You Want It/Works Volume One" ($4 from Bill Weita, PO Box 257, Kent, OH 44240): Inasmuch as I've never heard of this supergroup, I suspect some of the boys on the Kent scene are having us on. It's a good job, though, especially on the live A-side, a record of their last concert. Lots of eternal rock riffs, crowd noises, echoed vocals, and so on set the scene for a primal wail. The B side shows the Spatula folks less successful in the studio, thanks to producers who don't quite get their message. Archetypical rock. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BYFIST, "You Should Have Known" (Phoenix Entertainment Group, PO Box 2316, San Antonio, TX 78298-2316): Impressively polished power metal from this young San Antonio group. They've got the licks and the production down exactly, playing hard stuff that can take your breath away with its perfection. Their lyrics are just this side of Satanic, focusing on the fascinating darkness without endorsing it. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

DONALD CAMPEAU, "Gray Test Hits" ($6 from Carl Howard, 209-25 18 Ave., Bayside, NY 11360): Synthetic techno-rock that often sounds a bit forced and sterile, as if it's only the sketch for a real song. The A side here is a selection of Campeau's work this decade, full of sardonic lyrics and titles like "This Better Be Love (Or You're Dead)" and "I'm Not Satisfied". On the flip it;s all instrumentals, too jumpy-jangly to be really soothing but not actively annoying either. (T/MG))

★★★★★

THE CANADIAN CHAMBER ENSEMBLE, "Masquerade" (Centrediscs, 20 St. Joseph St., Toronto, ONT M4Y 1J9, CANADA): Classically-styled chamber music from modern composers. This leads off with Malcom Forsyth's playful "Fanfare and Three Masquerades", and then moves through R. Murray Schafer's "Concerto for Harpsichord and Eight Wind Instruments". The last piece, Gary Kulesha's "Third Chamber Concerto" is far the strongest, featuring a very aggressive oboe as a unifying force. Compares well with other classical cuts I like. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

CANCEROUS GROWTH, "Growth on the Beach" ($5 from Al Margolis, Sound of Pig, 28 Bellingham Ln., Great Neck, NY 11023): In the ever-changing world of electronic music, CG is Chris Phinney (Harsh Reality) and Mike Jackson (X-Kurzhen) jamming together. There's some neat technostuff here, and a lot of repetitious near-padding. The piece on the B side with the horde of dolphins on speed was quite entertaining. (T/MG)

★★★★★

CANDY DATES, "Remember the Candy Dates" ($4 from Claus Korn, Alte Brugstr. 7, D-8830 Treuchtlingen, WEST GERMANY): Flowing, melodic intermingled synthesizer music with wistful English vocals. All three members of this group contribute to the synthesizer waves, with touches of bass and drumming behind them, while Ulf handles the vocal chores.

Despite their point of origin, they're not at all in the Kraftwerk vein; this is much gentler, more human stuff. (T/MG)

★★★★★

CAPPING DAY, "Mona Lisa" b/w "Slow Fade" (Green Monkey Records, PO Box 31983, Seattle, WA 98103): This little number is more polished, less garage-y than most of the GM offerings; sort of art-pop. The band is anchored by Laura Weller's vocals, with Bonnie Hammond adding harmonies and (in a nice touch) xylophones. Joe Ross and Scott McCullum contribute bass and drums. The whole is tight and light, fun to listen to but not utterly puffy. (45/MG)

★★★★★

JEFF CARNEY, "Imperfect Space Journeys" ($6 from Carl Howard, aT, 209-25 18 Ave., Bayside, NY 11360): Imperfect these synthesizer pieces may be — recorded live without post-mixing or overdubbing — but wonderful is another word that fits. Carney has a very shimmery, liquid style of play that can bounce a musical phrase around for ten minutes without seeming monotonous. The final cut, "Trip", with accompaniment by Shannon Taylor on drums, is a breathless cap to a very good set of songs indeed. (T/MG)

★★★★★

CATERWAUL, "Beholden" (IRS, 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, CA): Like silk, Caterwaul's music is both delicate and durable, pleasant to behold with a deceptive strength. But it is the vocals that send them soaring far into the stratosphere. Betsy Martin's voice is an instrument unto itself, its weirdly timbered twists and turns encompassing the mystery of the far east, the spirituality of the middle east and the earthiness and practicality of the near east. I have only one complaint: there should be more material here than there is. (EP/CS)

★★★★★

CBI, "Big Tears" (Dimension Records, 18653 Ventura Blvd. #311, Tarzana, CA 91356): Bouncy, perky, well-textured, very full pop. Just in case the string of adjectives didn't tip you off, I like these guys. Offerings range from the title cut, a gentle love song, to "Braid on My Shoulder", a plaint from a nice guy who just happens to be in the army in Ireland. With marketing by Restless, this could go someplace fast. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

THE CELIBATE RIFLES, "Dancing Barefoot" (What Goes On Records, Box 169, 151 First Ave., New York, NY 10003): What can you say about a band like this? They're clearly not amateurs, as their hard-edged rock has a polish and maturity seldom (though not never) found on 69¢ demo tapes. But the hard edges won't go away, making them as far from commercial as any underground tapester. They dare you to take their aural assault as it stands, a notch or two gnarlier than pop rock, and they're not going to change for anyone. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

JEFF CENTRAL and **CHRIS PHINNEY**, "Weird Drug-Inspired Hits" ($5 from Harsh Reality, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): A collaborative effort at experimental electronic music that skates around the edge of monotony (and sometimes falls in) to produce eerie pieces that rise and fall and tickle your spine. The closing track, "Feel My Steel Emotion (Rust Mix)" cranks up the tension higher and higher before finally just fading away to leave you panting for more. (T/MG)

★★★★★

CEPHALIC INDEX, "Virally Altered 3" b/w "Acid" ($3 from Ecto Tapes, 1219 NW 18th, Oklahoma City, OK 73106): A cassette single of electronic noise. The A side is a bouncy number, with flurries of notes like lances of light stinging into your ears. I can't say as much about the flip, a low rumbling concoction strongly reminiscent of what happens when you plug your speakers straight into the wall socket. (T/MG)

★★★★★

STEPHEN CHARMAN, "Due North" (Canadian Music Centre, 20 St. Joseph St., Toronto, ONT M4Y 1J9, CANADA): A disc of choral music from this British Columbian composer, performed by the Vancouver Chamber Choir. They range from highly traditional a capella pieces to such modern bits as "Mosquitoes", part of the title suite of sound pictures of the great outdoors. Other contents include British Columbian folk songs and a bit of the Song of Solomon — a highly eclectic assortment, and most very beautiful but not so utterly serious as to be boring. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

KEN CHEETHAM, "Beside Cabbage" ($5 from 2645-B Miller Ave., Mountain View, CA 94040): Pretty lightweight synth-pop. When he gets moving, Ken sounds a bit like early ELP, playing around with organ riffs and generally having a good time. Influences from nursery rhymes to jazz creep in, but wander out again just as quickly. Instrumental grafitti. (T/MG)

★★★★★

CHEMICAL PEOPLE, "So Sexist" (Cruz Records, PO Box 7756, Long Beach, CA 90807): These guys have two things going for them: a sense of humor, and cheesecake pictures of porno star Jeanna Fine on the cover of this debut album. Their music is raw and racy, rock with sex on its mind, and the socially-redeeming qualities are few and far between. The sort of music your parents warned you against. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

CHEVY 6, "2 Good 2 Be True" ($14 CD or $8 tape from 1912 Indian Hill Rd., Birmingham, AL 35216): A party tape featuring 11 rockers, of which only 3 are originals. The covers — including "Hang on Sloopy", "The Name Game", "Born to be Wild" and "Surfin' Bird" set a mood of raucous silliness that the original tunes fit right in with. Nothing earth- or industry-shaking here, just five guys having a good time playing old-fashioned rock with a Southern tinge to it. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

CHICKEN SCRATCH, "Pass the Porcupine" (Community 3 Recordings, 416 E. 13th St. #12, New York, NY 10009): Pretty undistinguished rock of the "throw-in-everything-including-the-kitchen-sink" school. Need some whiney vocals? Some piano? Some dissonant playing about? It's all here, and a lot more — but there's no groove to it. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

CHILDREN, "Arms to Hold You" ($7 from 2508 S. Norton, Sioux Falls, SD 57105): A lot of critics would discuss this as another Christian band, but that would be doing a disservice to all concerned. Children are first damned good roots rockers, and second, intelligent lyricists — who happen to be Christian. Sure, there is mention of God in their songs, but there are also real people, struggling with hope and problems, and innovative arrangements — particularly the multiply-tangled words of "Silhouette", closing out side one of this 6-song tape. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE CHILLS, "The Lost EP" (Homestead Records, PO Box 800, rockville Centre, NY 11571-0800): One thing that makes for catchy pop is familiarity, and the Chills have this down cold. Thus "Don't Even Know Her Name" brings up memories of Herman's Hermits, while echoes of folk songs and nursey rhymes echo in "Bee Bah Bee Bah Bee Boe". But they're not slaves to the past, and are capable of construcitng elegant noise-ridden songs that challenge while they entertain, as with "Dream By Dream", a 5-minute rock-operetta. A reissue of a 1985 New Zealand pressing, this is worth checking out by anyone looking for the cutting edge of pop. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

CITY OF WORMS and **ILLUSION OF SAFETY**, "Live COS" ($4 from Jeff Jerman, Big Body Parts, 3031 E. Platte #2, Colorado Springs, CO 80909): A frightening and intense 90 minutes of audio assault by these two industrial/improv groups, playing together in some warehouse. There's lots of ambient noise before htey start, but it quickly gets lost in the sounds of pounding, feedback, tortured instruments, and what sounds like a jet engine getting ready to take off. The only let-up is a few moments of barking dog at the end of side 1. (T/MG)

★★★★★

MICHELLE T. CLINTON & WANDA COLEMAN, "Black/Angeles" ($7.50 from New Alliance Records, PO Box 1389, Lawndale, CA 90260): Breathtakingly powerful poetry from a pair of women who grew up in Watts and South Los Angeles. They don't pull any punches, whether the subject is rape or eviction or exploitation or even the moments of love and tenderness. Clinton's poetry is a visceral attack, driving home with hard, sharp images the broken dreams of a generation and the desperate attempts to cope. Coleman has a more metaphorical approach, dealing in feelings and capturing spirits. The combination is a winner. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

CLONE UNITY ORCHESTRA "Mountain Men of Krakatoa" ($7 from Carl Howard, aT, 209-25 18 Ave., Bayside, NY 11360): Check out the all-star lineup here: Cool & the Clones, Alien Planetscapes, Beth Emmerling, If Bwana, Mike Vargas, Dave Prescott, Barnaby Jones "and others" — all performing together. The result is jam-packed tracks of innovative noise, squeaky horns and synths and piano and who knows what-all, interwoven and layered endlessly. There's also some solo work (including unaccompanied piano) by Eric Ziarko and a track from Cool and the Clones. A whirlwind trip through new music land. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE COACHMEN, "Failure to Thrive" ($6.50 from New Alliance Records, PO Box 1389, Lawndale, CA 90260): The liner notes admit that this was issued to cash in on Sonic Youth's popularity: this is the band that Thurston Moore was playing guitar for before SY was formed. It's not bad stuff, especially the portentiously perlexing "Household Word", but it's not real exciting either. Mostly an item for collectors, or those who want to hear Thurston play without feedback or dissonance. (EP/MG)

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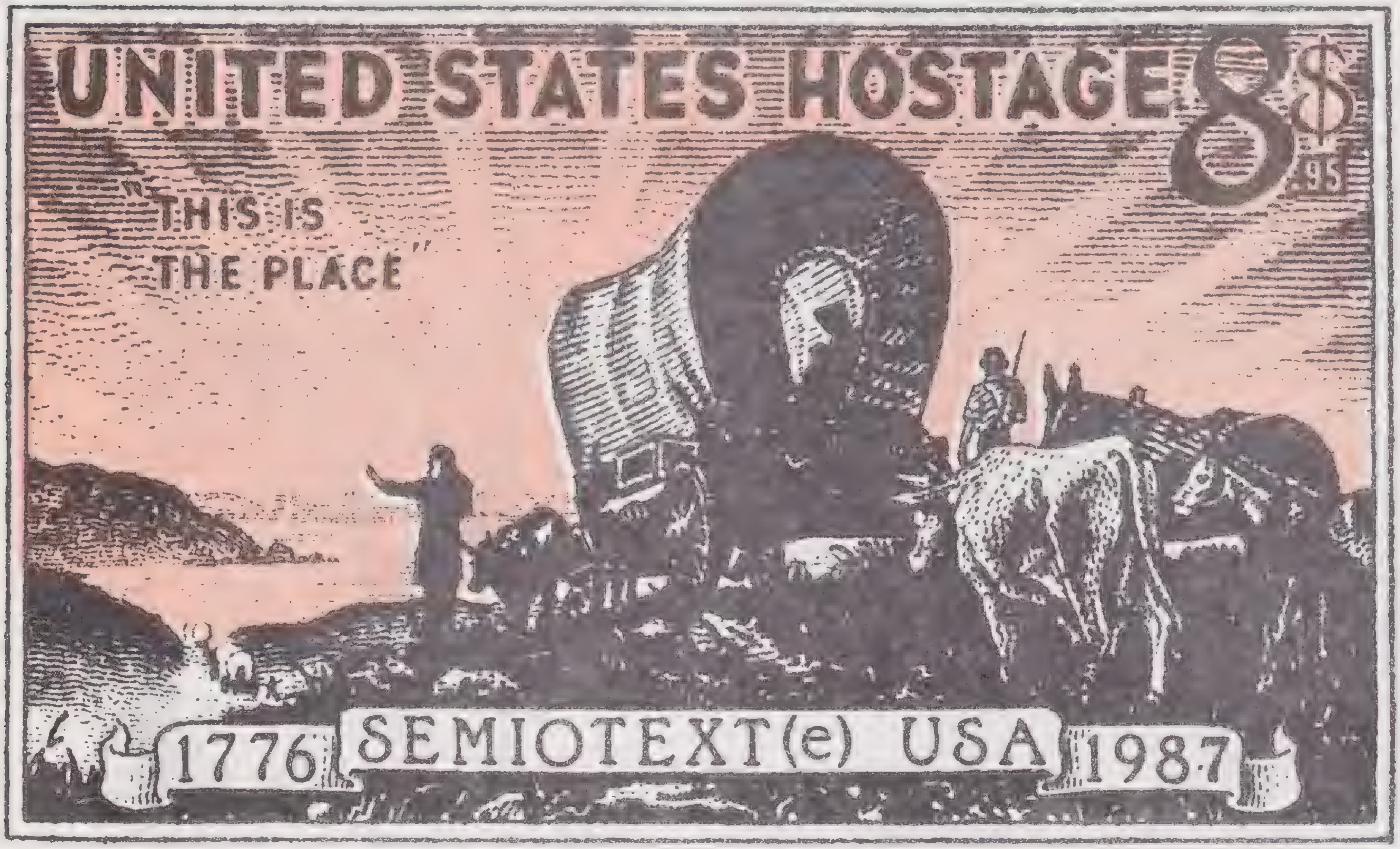

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★★★★★

COL. TOM AND THE EPSTEINS, "Kent Guitar Massacre" ($5 from Colonel Tom Productions, PO Box 257, Kent, OH 44240): The genesis of a garage band, featuring the very earliest recordings of this group. You'll find a lot here: dorm room productions, long pointless jams, self-indulgent covers of things like "Helter Skelter", new words to "Wild Thing", and all the other stuff that strikes one as fun when first learning to play the guitar. (T/MG)

★★★★★

COMMON AILMENTS OF MATURITY, "Smoldering Lunchbox" (PO Box 51, Boston, MA 02141): Rapidfire drums-and-synthesizer beat rattles the brain and makes thought, or even enjoyment of these tracks, impossible. the barrage of fast sounds and growling vocals doesn't help much either. Like being thrown into a dishwasher with a horde of three-year-olds. Live shows form these folks must be something to see. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

DARREN COPELAND & COMPANY, "Living It Out in the Dead Air-Space" ($5 from 1588 Spring Rd., Mississauga, ONT L5J 1N3, CANADA): A bit of collective music that stands out for the darkly poetic texts and vocals of John Marriott. These are mixed over a synthetic background, with touches of treated instruments and shortwave for an eerie, spacey technological feel. Overall the work is slow-paced but richly multi-layered and distinctively different from other noise/art/synth projects. (T/MG)

★★★★★

COSMIC PSYCHOS, self-titled (What Goes On, 151 First Ave. #169, New York, NY 10003): A snotty British punk attitude mixed in with a Euro-hardrock orientation. Lots of grungy guitar fuzz and enthusiasm go a long way here. Melodic but that's not at the front. What hits you first is the upbeat edge that's decidedly cement-hard and unfinishedly rough. (T/CS)

★★★★★

THE COWBOY JUNKIES, "The Trinity Session" (RCA, 1133 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036): The name of the band, coupled with the shrinkwrap's trumpeting herald of their "most authentic" (according to no less an authority than Lou Reed) cover of "Sweet Jane had me fully prepared for sloppy underground NYC drugs & drink induced rock and roll. Not quite. There are definitely Velvet Underground influences to be felt here, but they're subtly blended into a smokey, torch-song country style. Simple in its adornment but complex in its presentation. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

CRAWLING WITH TARTS, "Bled es Siba 1" & "Bled es Siba 2" ($7 each or $13.50 for both from Carl Howard, aT, 209-25 18 Ave., Bayside, NY 11360): The disintegration of music by this improvisational three-piece. This three-hour sequence starts out very heavy on the percussion, with the sounds of breaking objects and the clatter of who-knows-what. Gradually more melodic lines come in, guitars and a bit of vocals and haunting flute, with the music slowly developing. A very rich experience presented without any attempt at compression. Background that isn't wimpy. (2T/MG)

★★★★★

CRAZY 8, "Big Live Nut Pack" (Red Rum Records, PO Box 1084, Beaverton, OR 97075): Uplifting and uninhibited. This is getting ready for a party music that gets you going. Fundamentally it's peppy pop rock but there are all kinds of nifty embellishments (like lots of horn) in the tradition of bands like English Beat or The Untouchables. The singer's voice has a quality reminiscent of Ian Astbury when he's not so melodramatically melancholy. (2LP/CS)

★★★★★

CRINGER, "Zen Flesh, Zen Bones" ($3 from Vinyl Communications, PO Box 8623, Chula Vista, CA 92012): A punk/pop mix that sounds real good on repeated playings (not that it was bad the first time around!). True to the title, the lyrics here are meaningful and elusive, leading to music that can be enjoyed on two levels: as good danceable tunes or as words to ponder and perhaps be enlightened by. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

CROWBAR BATHROOM LOVE, "Eat the Rat" (Cool Beans Records, 130 Essex Ave., W. Keansburg, NJ 07734): This tape comes with a Surgeon General's warning on it, and it's easy to hear why. Hollow drumbeats and high, whining strings provide most of the instrumentation for the bellowed and crooned vocals. 16 short songs crowd into this tape, driving one into a mood where dark nights and nasty dreams seem perfectly normal and desireable. Near-industrial gloom songs. (T/MG)

★★★★★

CRUEL, "Candle on the Water" b/w "Tarba" (Pete Kohl, 206 Glen Hollow Rd., Madison, WI 53705): Mildly metallic punk with some gothic tinges to it. The main problem with this is that the vocals are so murky that only a sludgy impression remains when the song is over. They put out a lot of noise, but it's not filling. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

THE C*NTS, "A Decade of Fun: 1978-88" (Disturbing Records, PO Box 11463, Chicago, IL 60611): Starting with 7 otherwise-unavailable tracks from early singles and progressing to recent material, this is a fun album. Anchored by Mike Pocius' vocals and the farfisa playing of Fred Kotowske, these folks turn out high-energy songs that sound a bit like Tex-Mex run through a meat-grinder: pop with a very hard edge indeed. And with titles like "Penguins Addicted to Molasses", you can tell they want us all to have fun with it. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

DANNY, "Hurricane of Love" (Leela Rasa Services, PO Box 1191, Stowe, VT 05672): I guess the best way to describe this is as an audio collage. Danny has taken bits and pieces from dozens of sixties-vintage recordings, together with some live vocals, and strung them together to bring us a message about what's wrong with the world today: not enough love, basically. Comes with extensive documentation of all the recordings used and ideas on how to fix this worldwide love famine. Seems a bit obsessive to me, but the tape is quite easy to get immersed in. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DEAD GODS, "Without Heads" ($3 from Frontline Tapes, 3751 Little Neck Pt. Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23452): Pretty poor recording quality hardcore that's partially redeemed by really outrageous, even blasphemous, lyrics (complete with a lyric booklet for your edification). The flip side has some sound collage type stuff as well as more heavy-duty music. Basement music for the moshing set. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DEAD HORSE, self-titled ($4 from 3620 1/2 Broadway, Houston, TX 77017): Speedcore that sounds like it comes from a band that's been together more than the six months these guys have. Behind the angy moniker and disgusting drawings is some real talent, both in fast loud music and eerie lyrics. Plenty of rage here directed at the war machine and its effects. Also good for doing calisthenics to when you have some sweat to work up. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE DEAD MILKMEN, "Beelzebubba" (Enigma Records, PO Box 3628, Culver City, CA 90231-3628): Damnably funny pop (though they stray into other genres as satire demands) that makes fun of all sorts of folks. "Punk Rock Girl" is a lovesong with a difference; "Stuart" captures the ranting of the rightist fringe to perfection; "Born to Love Volcanos" goes after PBS; and "Life is Shit" is the ultimate anti-anthem. But I laughed the hardest at "Brat in the Frat", an anti-college song with Dr. Seussian lyrics that deserves to be blasted from loudspeakers at every frat house in the country. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

DEATH, "Leprosy" (Combat, 187-07 Henderson Ave., Hollis, NY 11423): An 8-song offering of death metal, although if you took out the pauses between you might not notice that is wasn't all one long assault. This is not subtle music, but a near-painful combination of blasting guitars and heavy-duty drums fronted by aggressive vocals. Tender tunes include "Pull the Plug", "Choke on it" and "Open Casket". All as morbid as it sounds. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

DEATH OF SAMANTHA, "Where the Women Wear the Glory and the Men Wear the Pants" (Homestead Records, PO Box 800, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0570): The material here is more upbeat and straightforward than previous stuff; the melodramatic emoting is not nearly so present. It's energetic guitar rock with a zesty drive, nicely contrasted by the (still) darkly timbered vocals. The band seems less concerned with the peripherals of their songs and more directed towards the heart of them, finding their feet and heading in a more defined direction. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

DEATHRANCH, "A Prisoner" ($5 from Cliff Neighbors, 1473 Redwood Dr., Santa Cruz, CA 95060): Eerie gothic improvisations, without words though they do carry spine-tingling vocals. Lost of minor key chords, drawn out synthesizer wails, and ponderous rhythms make this music best listened to at three AM for full effect. On track is made to go with **FLAMING CARROT** #13; the rest have more elusive titles, like "The chair (joy of torment)". Cliff is also interested in remote collaborations & trades. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DEVIL DOG, "Serve the Sun" ($4 from Phil Lollar, c/o Raining House, PO Box 1452, Santa Cruz, CA 95061): Heavy tribal rhythms and powerful drumming by Ron Nachmann set the pace for this release, rife with lyrics to make you think. Consider this snippet of "Jeopardy": "Work for work's sake/all minutes swallowed/ask self for patience/no longer get an answer". The rest of the tape is similarly open-ended, moving your juices & stirring your brains at the same time. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DIEDROP, "The End" ($3 from Frontline Tapes, 3751 Little Neck Pt. Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23452): Gloomy gothic punk that gets a bit monotonous after a while with pounding rhythms and one-track vocals. I'm afraid the recording quality doesn't help either. They do include a nice lyric booklet, with 11 more songs besides the 13 on the tape — one of which is a great burnout attack on the Mickey Mouse Club. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DINOSAUR, JR. "Bug" (SST, PO Box 1, Lawndale, CA 90260): They're still building that humongous wall-of-guitar-sound that has become their distinctive trademark, but as the band has matured, so has their approach in building that sound. This latest outing finds them creating not so much a solid wall, as a swirling tapestry of hard rocking guitar mingled with psychedelic overtones and gut-wrenching human emotion. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

DISAPPEAR FEAR, "Echo My Call" (Refined Records, 2105 Maryland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21218): This group seems to be mostly a showcase for Sonia Rutstein's vocals (she also plays guitar, bass, keyboards and more). Her voice is a bit too harsh to be vacuously pretty, but still it has a wistful, crystalline quality that makes for nice listening. The music is sort of soft pop, with an almost madrigal sound in places. Some rough edges here, but also good potential. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

DISISM, "No Stairs" ($4 from Al Margolis, Sound of Pig Music, 28 Bellingham Ln., Great Neck, NY 11023): Endless waves of sound, rising and falling in a slow and biological rhythm. Occasional tape loops and twisted vocals emerge from this primoridal aural ooze, only to sink back and be lost again. There are both live improvisational and planned tracks here. Music to go with a slow and psychoactive evening. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DOG AS MASTER, "Weed" ($5 from XKurzhen Sound, State House PO Box 207, Boston, MA 02133): This one is quite interesting. It starts out as almost ethereal, very gentle and slowly developing, much more ambient than the rest of the DAM material I've heard. But that's deceptive, as the music gradually builds in intensity and earshatteringness, ending as extremely harsh. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DOLL PARTS, "Candida Albacore" (Audiofile Tapes, 209-25 18th Avenue, Bayside, NY 11360). A soundtrack for the film of the same name. Any good soundtrack should survive on its own, and the last three quarters of this tape certainly survive. This is a very diverse tape that includes both synthesizers and traditional instruments woven in a very interesting and satisfying blend. A strong side 2 makes up for a slow start. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

DOLL PARTS, "Carnival At Sea" (Subelectrick, 750 La Playa #620, San Francisco, CA 94121): Mostly-electronic music, featuring synths, vocals, found sounds and assorted minor touches, that vibrates with an intensity all its own. An eerie assortment of circus and carnival music fades in and out throughout the tracks here, giving ironic weight to lyrics about suffering and masks and deception. Like an ice cube down your spine, this one will make you shudder with its novelty. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

DRIVE, "Characters in Time" (Rhino/Rampage, 2225 Colorado Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90404): Heavy metal that walks very close to being overly ponderous but narrowly avoids that fate. This is sort of a concept album, looking at life surrounding a bunch of archetypical characters, from the scared Kamikaze to the oily fundamentalist TV preacher. Speedwise it's not at all thrash, more of a steamroller than a skateboard, with plenty of young harmonies over competent guitar work. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

STEVE DROMGOOLE & LARRY RUHL, "Make the Gloomies Go Away" (Larry Ruhl, 128 Alcott Dr., Windsor, CT 06095): Low-budget synthesizer and vocal madness with the air of a paranoid circus act about it. Ruhl & 'Goole (as the label calls them) create some strangely emotional pieces where the words turn the upbeat music into a sick joke, especially on "Happiness", where one artist gets shot by the other. The Squinkies interrupt side two with an effervescent 3-song pop set as an added bonus. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DWARVES, "Toolin' For a Warm Teabag" ($7 from Nasty Gash Records, 4099 17th St., San Francisco, CA 94114): This record starts off with a blast of feedback and quickly degenerates into a sludge of over-amped guitars and hardass drums. The vocals are pretty well buried, but with songs like "Dead Brides in White" and "Eat You To Survive" that's probably just as well. These guys probably think they're getting back to the roots of rock but then so does GG Allin. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE EARLY MAMMALS, "Dinosaur Omelet" (Channel 83, PO Box 7303, Minneapolis, MN 55407): Apart from the cute name and striking cover art, these guys sound pretty good too. Their basic mode is hard rock, but with the keyboards wandering to the farfisa range they're also sorta perky. Check out the hard-driving "Monkey Swarm", the appropriate (& allegorical) "In the Tarpits" and the story of psychosis "The Ballad of Psycho Bill". Could be a winner. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

ECONOCHRIST, "It Runs Deep" ($3 from Truant Records, PO Box 42185, Memphis, TN 38104): An EP from what may well be the first hardcore band from Arkansas to ever make it on to vinyl. There's some good stuff here, including "Think For Yourself" and "Fuck Your American Dream", although nothing that really stands out too far from the rest of the hardcore pack — the band is competent but not flashy. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

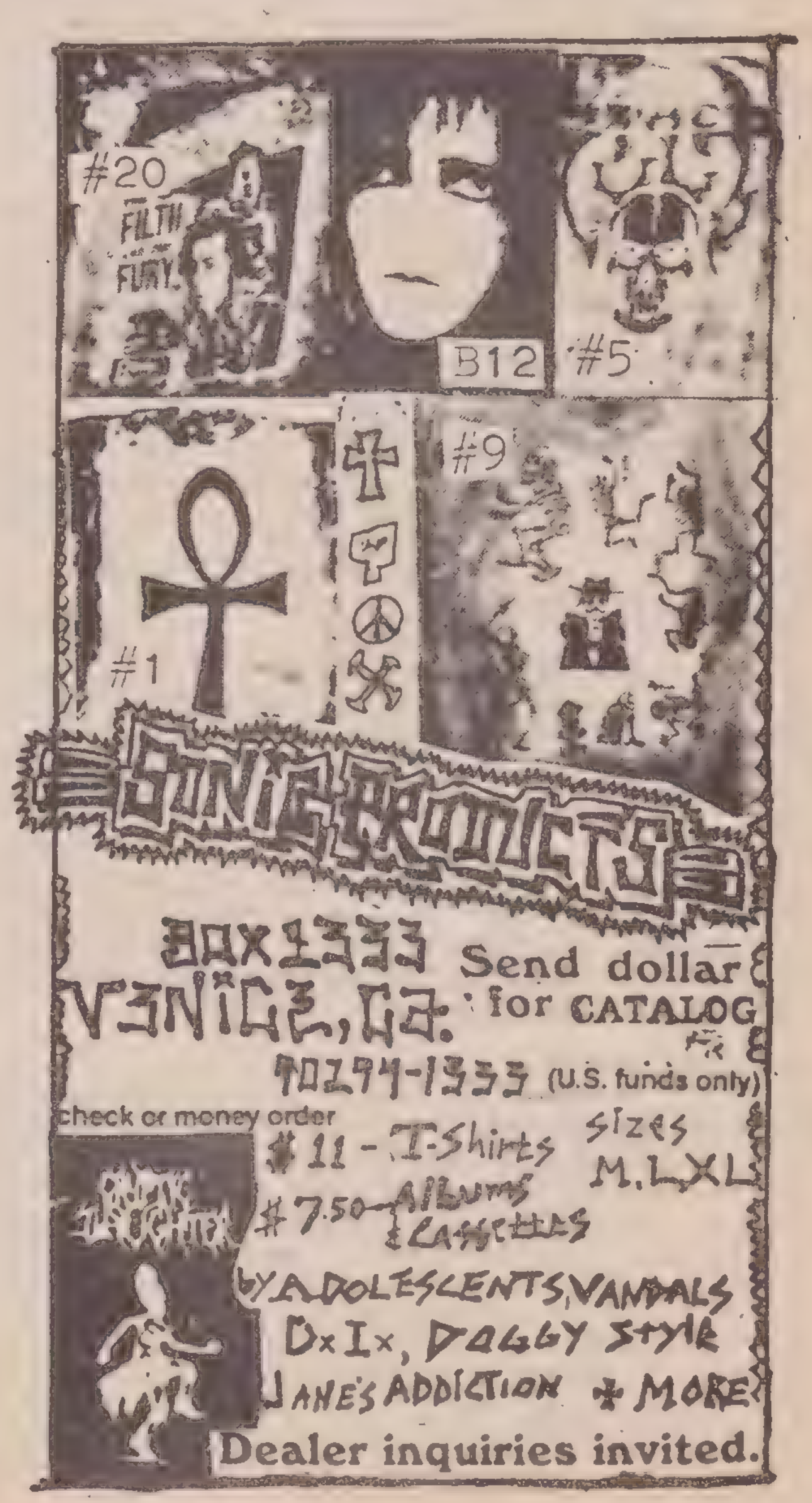
ED HALL, "Albert" (Boner Records, PO Box 2081, Berkeley, CA 94702): While I enjoyed the creative and nutty lyrics, the electro-noise-funk-mideastern music leaves me pretty cold. The members of this group (none of them named Ed) are certainly competent with their instruments, but they seem not to care to go along with musical styles. The result is a mushy mass of experimentalism with no strong themes. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

EGG, "Eat" ($3.65 from 3 Wesley Pk. #4, Somerville, MA 02143): A fairly decent demo tape from this acoustic band poised on the edge between pop and something harder, or at least more confusing. The music bounces along without too many frills, while the lyrics get sort of bizarre. My fave was the song about the "Memory Ball", a frightening though unexplained concept. (T/MG)

★★★★★

EGO LOOP, "Nothingness" (Gris Publications & Records, PO Box 413, Collingswood, NJ 08108): A haunting album of electronically-driven artrock. With eerie chord changes, semi-nihilist lyrics, and echo-laden vocals, this group paints the world black. Even so, it's a seductive path to follow,



thanks to their understated control of the music. Late night brain candy. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

GREG ERICSON, demo tape (1706 Sylvan, Austin, TX 78741): Four songs on the borders between pop and country. There's no credits here beyond Greg's name, but the musicians lay down simple guitar and keyboard lines with plenty of hooks, fronted by decent vocals. The real catch here is "Fantasies in Seagreen", featuring a female vocalist and a great melody that made me stop what I was doing just to listen. I hope to hear more in the future from these folks. (T/MG)

★★★★★

ERL, "Creepin' Mujetderreh" (ERL Records, 418 Madison Ave., Albany, NY 12210): Sometimes I think the price of making records has come down too far. Recorded on one of the tinniest set-ups in existence, this is a self-indulgent amusical bash, featuring lots of aimless guitar playing, crudely distorted vocals, and occasional mistreatment of a clarinet. The mentality is sort of industrial, but the big pieces of ironmongery are missing as well. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

ETHEREAL GENTLEMANIAC, self-titled (Watergate Tapes, c/o M. Reams, PO Box 10331, Greensboro, NC 27404): "Soundtracky" electronic music for a late-night mod-60's British B-movie, the kind you find on non-major network affiliates, with swingers, murder, sexual innuendo and lots of tacky stereotypes. (T/CS)

★★★★★

EULIPIAN, "Resonance Macho Tremor" ($4 *CASH* from Don Baker, PO Box 61387, Seattle, WA 98121): The lead track, "Rhythm for the Second Coming", says it all. Quirky synthesizer rhythms anchor this, along with sound collages and narrative. A nicely typeset lyric booklet with printing to match the sounds comes along to further befuddle your brain. Arty madness that's madly interesting. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE EVERGREEN CLUB, "North of Java" (Canadian Music Centre, 20 St. Joseph St., Toronto, ONT M4Y 1J9, CANADA): It's not often that you hear gamelon music that wasn't recorded on site in Indonesia, still less playing new compositions. But this is both, and it's very good. For those still in the dark, the gamelon is a collection of bronze and wooden instruments, tending towards the clamorous but carefully tuned, in this case played by 8 musicians. They create wonderful vast waves of sound, in compositions of great range from a number of modern composers. A great mix of the traditional and the new. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

FACTOR X, untitled (c/o Indespair, 16 Climsland Road, Paignton, torbay, Devon, ENGLAND): If this tape had a title it would probably be something like "The Varieties of Noise": it's a collage of sounds, including TV and radio shows, brutal feedback, poundings, music, static and who knows what else, compiled into one massive blurt. The packaging matches the audio: it arrived in a plastic bag filled with such unremarkable objects as a disposable razor, wallpaper, corrugated cardboard, a trading stamp, and bits of knitting. Recycled art. (T/MG)

★★★★★

FEARLESS IRANIANS FROM HELL, "Holy War" ($7 from Boner Records, PO Box 2081, Berkeley, CA 94702): Fronted by an authentic Iranian exile, these speedcore fanatics are rubbing America's collective nose in our attitudes towards Iran. They do this by becoming our worst fear: raping, murdering, grinning sadists, terrorists with no respect for life (and little for well-tuned instruments). Scary music satire. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

FEEDBAK, "Trapped in a Balloon" ($3 from Howard Scholtz, PO Box 352, Tawas City, MI 48764): A pretty low-fi demo tape with 8 songs in a metallic hardcore vein with lots of humor. These folks are trying hard, and some songs like "Mosh Into Oblivion" show promise, but this tape just doesn't do anything to ignite the listener. The cover of "Louie, Louie" is pretty funny though. (T/MG)

★★★★★

FISH KARMA, "Hell-Hound on My Leg" (Addled Records, PO Box 40421, Tucson, AZ 85717): Demented tunes recorded with backing from All Perry and the Cattle. Fish sings of things like God's omnipresence and the retaliation of dead pets in their owners' dreams. He also deals with love or at least lust in a few songs. A funny guy. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

THE FLESHEATERS, "Live" (Homestead Records, PO Box 800, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0800): Raw rough energy of the primal kind propelling music that throbs, rattles, stomps, snarls, and, unlike much of the pre-fab posturing done by today's bands, is not pretty, But it doesn't have to be. It has more than beauty; it has total class and integrity and heart and guts. The quality of the sound itself is pretty bad; but it doesn't seem to matter here where the emphasis is less on what the studio can do with the band than on what the band can do with the music. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

FLUX, self-titled ($3 from 801 Walnut St., Roselle Park, NJ 07204): A mix of heavy-metal riffs, discordant noises, and ominous vocals. The result is a pretty abrasive mix, one that is not designed to be nice to listen to. Lyrics range from the depressing to the merely pointless, with lots of emotion throughout. Clearly a departure, but I'm not sure it's a direction any sane person would care to follow. (T/MG)

★★★★★

FORBIDDEN, "Forbidden Evil" (Combat Records, 187-07 Henderson Ave., Hollis, NY 11423): Youthful thrash metal that follows through on its initial promise. "Off the Edge" is a powerful statement of living life just a bit too fast; the album wraps up with the no-holds-barred "Follow Me", with heavy instrumental sections and breathtaking vocals. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

FORTHRIGHT, "Shadow" ($4 from Steve Saranga, 1252 Treeline Dr., Allentown, PA 18103): A hardcore tape that gets around a bit rather than getting stuck in a single rut for all 8 songs. There's a steady pounding rhythm and fast-paced vocals throughout, but there are also decent guitar playing and some other fun touches from the metal realm of things. Nothing flashy, but not bad. (T/MG)

★★★★★

FRAGMENT #1 ($6 from ND, PO Box 4144, Austin, TX 78765): The first of a new series of cassettezines exploring the artistic underground of cassette culture from these experienced neworkers. The premiere issue features works from J. Greinke and Pierre Perret, both of whom present moody multi-layered compositions. Greinke tends towards found sounds, while Perret is more into long, slow waves of synthetic tone. It's all presented with interviews with the artists and attractive packaging. (T/MG)

★★★★★

NYLE FRANK, "Greatest Hits Vol. II" ($8 from Centipede Productions, PO Box 121832, Nashville, TN 37212): Gently pleasant folk/country written by Nyle but performed by Margaret King, John Adrian and Clark Williams. Margaret's voice in paticular is a delight, and the topics tend to be a bit more sophisticated than cheating women and deadly men. You should at least send for the Centipede catalog, since all of their stuff seems to be fun and good. (T/MG)

★★★★★

VERNON FRAZER, "Sex Queen of the Berlin Turnpike" (132 Woodycrest Dr., East Hartford, CT 06118): I've been listening to Vernon's fusion of beatnik poetry and freeform jazz develop for a few years now, and this record is a welcome step forward. He's added four more musicians to the backing, and the sax, multiple bass lines, and drums help give the record a soft, smoky texture, broken by abrupt climaxes to the poems. Vernon looks at life, from erotic dancers to Buddhists to nightclubs to Haight Street, painting clever word-pictures of them all. Something different and interesting. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

FRIENDS OF BETTY, "Blind Faith II" (Underdog Records, PO Box 182, Chicago, IL 60614): Power garage rock with a bite. It starts off pop-oriented and then builds into a hard rock finale. Creatively clangy and energetic, it's a little crazy in all the right ways and a lot of fun. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

TOM FURGAS & JOHN OSWALD, "Diesel Restaurant" b/w "Color Breathing" (#3 from 1840 Paisley Rd. #3, Youngstown, OH 44511): It started off with a nice feeling and then little by little it began to drag. The first side is all one long piece, slightly ambient and "new agey" but with an undertone to it: took lots of singular notes and popped them in and out of the melody, which gave it a random feel. The second side, also one long piece, started out like a soundtrack off a public TV geographic water special and then slid into music but maintained the water image throughout. (T/CS)

★★★★★

GALAXIE 500, "Today" (Aurora Records, PO Box 2596, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130): Quiet, melodic (dare I say "Laid-back"?) pop that hangs every note wistfully in the air, as though this three-piece had all the time in the world to play. Well, if they were in my living room, they would — that's how good they are. To hear a pair of guitars, an unobtrusive drum set, and Dean Wareham's vocals weave together in hypnotic patterns, like aural smoke from a slow fire, is quite a treat. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

SEABURY GOULD, "The Mushroom House: Folk Songs For Children" ($10 from Acoustic Medicine Productions, PO Box 1082, Ojai, CA 93023): Though I was struck by the morbidness of many traditional kids' songs ("Cock Robin" is a prime example) I still liked this tape. Seabury has a nice gentle touch with vocals and guitar, and there are plenty of extra touches, from xylophone to childrens' voices, where they're called for. I'm not sure this will hold the attention of all age, but I personally got fascinated byt he endless silliness of songs like "There Was A Man", an extended bit of nonsense. (T/MG)

★★★★★

GREGORY'S FUNHOUSE, "Obey" (Big Chief Records, 611 Broadway #907E, New York, NY 10012): A perfectly bizarre release. Gregory has one of those Boris Karloff voices that canmake anything sound sinister, a twisted mind that produces thoroughly wedged poetry, and a Ramones-ish backing group. The result is a release that wanders from sadomasochistic school fantasies to the powertrips of a mad ruler to exotic sexual experiences to the down side of fashion. Obviously not for small minds, but fascinating and musically very different without being abrasive. A definite hit. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

RUDOLPH GREY, "Transfixed" (New Alliance Records, PO Box 1389, Lawndale, CA 90260): For aficionados only. Dischordant chords, scratchy strings, slam-banging piano keys — it's a bizarre soundtrack to some twisted movie. Imagine watching *Psycho* on acid. This is what you'd be hearing. (EP/CS)

★★★★★

HALF JAPANESE, "Charmed Life" (50 Zillion Watts, 5721 SE Laguna Ave., Stuart, FL 34997): In the can since 1985 but only now released, this album was well worth the wait. Vocalist & writer Jad Fair, with the backing of the rest of the band on guitars, harmonica and sax, produces a wonderful set of good rock. There are influences shot all through this, from jazz to blues to who knows what all. Lyrically it's a treat too, and best of all: no loud claning buzzsaw noises to destroy your ears. This could be called pop but that would belittle their genius. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

HENRY HEKTIK, "Motion P. Music" ($6 from Carl Howard, aT, 209-25 18 Ave., Bayside, NY 11360): German synth music with a few vocals but mostly just heavily rhythmic instrumentals. The tracks tend to explore individual combinations of hardware, ringing the changes on what they can do until a sort of closure is reached. They range from disco bouncy to moodily drawn out. (T/MG)

★★★★★

HELLCATS, "Electric O.D." (from 127 Dahlia Rd., Livingston Manor, NY 12758): I hear so much experimental, off-the-wall, and frankly horrible stuff in this job that it's always a pleasant surprise when some good old-fashioned rock and roll comes into the FF office. This tape is a good example of that: 8 tunes that will get the blood moving without making it boil out your ears. Vaguely reminiscent of early Alice Cooper, this is a demo that should attract some attention. (T/MG)

★★★★★

ELVIS HITLER, "Disgraceland" (Restless Records, 11264 Playa Ct., Culver City, CA 90231): The name says it all: rockabilly punk combined with a sneering attitude that just won't quit. Stealing material from as far afield as Black Oak Arkansas, Jimi Hendrix, Green Acres and Tammy Faye Bakker, these boys manage to make a mockery of down-home music. Elvis' own gravel-gargling vocals front for an array of hard guitar playing, with hits like "Ten Wheels for Jesus" and "Hot Rod To Hell" taking the traditional themes just a little bit too far. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

ROBERT HOLLIS & CHRISTOPHER SWARTZ, "11x2" ($7 from Perimeter Records, PO Box 28882, Atlanta, GA 30358-0882): Swartz designs and builds instruments, some as traditional as the guitar, others as far out asthe monostring and the glassrack. Then he and Hollis go into the studio and play wonderful moody music on them, with effects ranging from bouncy to withdrawn and cloudy. Comes with pics of the instruments, construction drawings, and other paperwork. A must for readers of **EXPERIMENTAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS** or anyone else interested in sonic experimentation that doesn't need to be listened to with earplugs in. (LP/MG)

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★★★★★

THE HONEYMOON KILLERS, "Take It Off!" (Buy Our Records, PO Box 363, Vauxhill, NJ 07088): These folks have added a lot of polish since thier first record five years ago, which was one of the first we reviewed. The music has gained a nice hard edge to complement the gothic touches, and the band plays its gloomy way through the set with assurance. Doom and gloom fill the air on tracks like "I'm Glad My Baby' Gone" and "The Sexorcist", yet another slam at the poor televangelists. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

THE HUNGRY DUTCHMEN, "Lookin' For Santa" b/w "Caught Unprepared" (Black Tulip Records, 56 Cleveland Ave., Nutley, NJ 07110): Contagiously-upbeat pop with (at least on the A side) a seasonal message for the Christmas junkie. The flip is equally toe-tapping, a bit corny but still worth hearing. During the Tulip Mania, black tulips sold for phenomenal sums, a fact I'm sure has not escaped these five popsters. (45/MG)

★★★★★

HYPNOLOVEWHEEL, "Turn! Turn! Burn!" (Fabian Aural Products, c/o Eamonn Bowles, 656 Carroll St., Brooklyn, NY 11215): Strangely offkey garage sounds that refuse to stick in any genre. The twangy guitars might be country, but the bursts of feedback and hard fast sloppy playing don't go there. Strange touches like a bit of cello waft past distorted lyrics. Too annoying to be really likeable, but rather intriguing nonetheless. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

ICE CREAM BLISTERS, "Hot Greasy Food" (Xkurzhen Sound, Michael Jackson, State House PO Box 207, Boston, MA 02133): A creative mix of Brit-60's pop psychedelic, 60's industrial atmospheric acid rock, late 70's energetic punk edge and 80's experimental electronics. Kept me listening for more to see what was coming up next. (T/CS)

★★★★★

ICE CREAM BLISTERS, "Take With Food" ($4.50 from Harsh Reality Music, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): Much mellower than the average HR release, though there are a few blasts of raw noise lurking to ruin your complacency. They range from xylophone to fancy Roland keyboards to create music that tends towards the ambient, though never the boring. Special notes on which foods inspired which pieces are included. (T/MG)

★★★★★

I.N.C., "The Visitor" (Giant Records, PO Box 800, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0800): That stands for "Indestructible Noise Command", and that's certainly an apt name. These thrash-metal dudes manage to crank out a jackhammer rhythm that will numb your mind before side one is out. Lyrically they do just fine as well, with a special nod to "What Are You Looking At?", one of the more subtle anti-prejudice numbers I've heard. The album ends amusingly with a cover of a couple of Cars songs. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

ISOLATION, "The Flying Head" ($6 from Xkurzhen Sound, Michael jackson, State House PO Box 207, Boston, MA 02133): Maddeningly persistent rhythmic noise rock. H.P. Lovecraft used to write about glimpses of frightening alien cultures. Well, this could be music from Yuggoth. It has a definite structure, and one can see how some different creature might groove on it, but it remains eerily disconnected from the normal run of things, and turns mere humans' bones to jelly. (T/MG)

★★★★★

JACK SCRATCH, self-titled (Dave B., 1536 N. Oakley, Chicago, IL 60622): A demo finished on Christmas but certainly not holiday music. These guys have gone far beyond the moronic dance beats I complained of in their previous tape to a tighter, harsher sound, with guitars balanced on the metal edge and growly vocals. They still take a sort of downside look at life, a life made of "Promises" but leading to "Broken Dreams", two of the cuts on this tape. (T/MG)

★★★★★

MICHAEL JACKSON, "Cephalic Index" (Xkurzhen Sound, Michael Jackson, State House P.O. Box 207, Boston, MA 02133). Mike makes extensive use of sound snippets to form this audio collage structured around rock n roll (side A) and sex (side B). Unfortunately, some of the techniques, such as fast forwarding tape sounds, are overused and uncreative. At times, this cassette can really come together, but those moments are short and they don't last. Side B is the most interesting, but I can't help but believe that the tape would have been better if the two subjects had been combined in one piece. Recommended only for those who enjoy this type of music. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

THE JUNK MONKEYS, "Kick Out the Jelly!" (Happy Face, PO Box 2660, Dearborn, MI 48123): Except for the title, this one bears pretty much no relation to the MC5. Though the pace of the music is fast enough, the power is lacking, and the result is something much closer to roots than rock. A generally uninspired performance. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

KAPOTTE MUZIEK, "Baandf" (Harsh Reality Music, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124): I feel like I'm listening to this one through a wind tunnel, or perhaps submerged 20,000 leagues under the sea. In between the roaring/swishing wind/ocean sound are what seem to be random notes played here and there: a lone whistle repeated again and again, background music pieces here and there. It did absolutely nothing for me save to remind me never to record in an airport or watertank. (T/CS)

★★★★★

LIME SPIDERS, "Volatile" (Caroline Records, 5 Crosby St., New York, NY 10013): Raucous, guitar-laden rock from these moody Australians. Though there is some stuff here with mainstream potential, the strongest cut here is the morbid "Under my Umbrella", a love song with a decidedly nasty twist. There are some snakes in amongst these spiders. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

DAVID NIGEL LLOYD & HIS MOJAVE DESERT CEILIDH BAND, "An Age of Fable" (Silk Purse Productions, PO Box 481124, Los Angeles, CA 90048): David and friends play traditional British Isles folk tunes like "Rosin the Bow" and "Rosemary Lane" as well as originals with the same feel to them but more modern stories: "Poor Little Englishman!" recounting the fall of the Empire, while "At Hollywood and Western" presents a music biz nightmare. Throughout the music is rollicking, the good spirits contagious, and the energy level high. Recommended. (T/MG)

★★★★★

TODD MACHOVER, "VALIS" (Bridge Records, GPO Box 1864, New York, NY 10116): No doubt many of you are familiar with Phil Dick's book **VALIS** — this is an opera adopted from that work. Machover has done an excellent job on the adaptation, using various computer-enhanced music techniques to move from acoustic instruments to wildly new sounds as Horselover Fat slips farther into fantasy. The emotional tone of Dick's work, from the hopeful passages in the Exegesis to the self-doubting worries at the end, is also preserved. Comes with a 64-page booklet including a complete libretto, Machover's ideas on the work, staging notes, and much more. Definitely a work of art, and also darned good modern opera in the process. Undoubtedly this will be of major interest to the Dick cultists, but there is plenty here for any SF fan or other interested in a mindstretch. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

BARBARA MANNING, "Lately I Keep Scissors" (Heyday Records, PO Box 411332, San Francisco, CA 94141-1332): Mainly acoustic rock that's anything but mellow. Manning's work is peppered with folky overtones and jagged jangly edges, music to slice you up if you're not careful listening to it. Even her voice is just on the edge of musicality. The songs are people-oriented, a bit odd, but interesting. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

MASS TANGO, self-titled (Ohio Records, c/o Arktype, 154 E. 7th St., New York, NY 10009): Quirky rock with plenty of innovative touches. The best cuts come when Sarah Bell and Ken Cushman alternate vocal lines, building up a smooth pattern of song and response. Lyrically they're quite poetic, singing mostly of love and confusion, though the screamer "Highway Ten" is a different sort of on-the-road song. Sweet but not sappy. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

MENTAL ANGUISH, "Beach Blanket Bozos" ($5 from Xkurzhen Sound, Michael Jackson, State House PO Box 207, Boston, MA 02133): This election year ode to the candidates is somewhat more minimalistic than previous MA releases, concentrating on slow-paced wails and whines and looped vocals. Various tracks provide off-the-wall tributes to Elvis, Captain Beefheart, and the Stones. An eerie excursion into a prolific experimental mind. (T/MG)

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*from various reviews by Mike this past year.

MIRACLE ROOM, self-titled (Jerry Leibowitz, 151 First Ave. #169, New York, NY 10003): Modern improvisational tribal music. These guys get some primal rhythms going in their music and just keep on going with them, switching from standard instruments to electronics to more industrial found sounds without missing a beat. The sounds fade in and out on a long cycle while the pounding keeps short term interest going. Innovative and well-done. (T/MG)

★★★★★

MISTER SUBURBIA, "Life is a Slow Sax Solo" ($3 from Aardvark Farms, PO Box 785, Glenham, NY 12527): Rants and raves from Bill Randazzo, who sounds on the thin edge of urban psychosis. There is some minimal music background, but for the most part these are voice pieces, not even really poems. Topics include a hot date turned ugly, the tedium of idiot co-workers, and the spiral of drug abuse. (T/MG)

★★★★★

KEVIN MITCHELL, "Headmaster" ($6 from 6907 Barry Rd., Tampa, FL 33634): The aural accompaniment to the **UNDER THE PILLOW BOOK** I reviewed last issue. This is an unrelenting sound barrage, mainly multiple analog osciallators, rising and falling but never letting up. Crescendoes of almost sheer noise alernate with quieter but no less painful sections. An attempt at mental burnout. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE MOCKERS, demo tape ($5 from Seth Gordon, 1150 Horn Point Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23456): Sometimes you can hear the potential in a demo, no matter what the production — this is one of those times. The Mockers are a three-piece pop outfit that people have called a briddge between the 60s and the 80s. I prefer to think of them as playing a sort of timeless pop, bouncy little tunes that get you humming along within a few verses. And when the harmonica comes in on "Invisible Ink", and you knew it belonged there all along — what more can you ask for? 7 songs to play over and over again. (T/MG)

★★★★★

MOOSEHEART FAITH, self-titled (Venus Records, 622 Broadway #5B, New York, NY 10012): The selling point here is that this band features members & even songs from the Angry Samoans, but frankly, they'r worth listening to on their own terms. What we've got here is rock-edged psychedelia with a really warped view of the world. "Aliens From Space" is the perfect UFO-cultist sendup, and an early entry on to my list of best tracks of the year. Thanks to tambourines and fuzzboxes and electronics and who knows what else, there's a very sixties feel to this stuff, but for all that, it's not dated. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

MORTICIA, "DOA" (Channel 83, PO Box 7303, Minneapolis, MN 55407): Death rock in the truest sense of the word, in that death and related topics are the theme here. Musically it's fundamentally garage rock pop with a buzz to it, while the vocals vary, the female's reminding me a little of early Debbie Harry, the male's of early B-52's or the Cars. The lyrics give it a novelty goth undertone, as does the direction in which some of the riffs are sent. An interesting first album, but it's hard to imagine wanting a second or third in the same vein. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

MORTICIA, "Mortal Fear" (Channel 83, PO Box 7303, Minneapolis, MN 55407): I though this was going to be just another lackluster gloom metal record. Then I turned the record over and was hit with "Deadlier Than the Male", a very tight song with lots of little touches that could go far. On the whole they seem most influenced by Vincent Price, rather than other musicians. Also of note is "Christian Vices", an answer to those who attack metal as Satanic. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

MORTUARY ATTENDANT, "Another Embalmer" ($4 from New Flesh Tapes, 2837 NW 66th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73116): Ten "songs" made up out of two elements. The first is sound bits and loops from old movies; the second is a few musicians to synthesize a sound around this. So we get porno outtakes in "German Piss Sluts", old horror movies in "Zombie" and a whole raft of detourned dialog in "Hallucinogenic Hypnovision". Well off the beaten track. (T/MG)

★★★★★

MORPHOGENESIS, "MG1" (Generations Unlimited, 199 Strathmore #5, Brighton, MA 02135-5210): Improvisational electronic music from England. The members of Morphogenesis build up eerie waves of sound, sometimes verging on the painful, by manipulating relatively simple objects, radios, prepared instruments and so on, rather than exclusively via high tech. The result is haunting conversations of noise which swirl around the listener in a hypnotic fashion. (T/MG)

★★★★★

MARK MOTHERSBAUGH, "Music for Insomniaks, Volumes 1 and 2" (Enigma, 11264 Playa Ct., Culver City, CA 90231-6127): A dual-CD set with about two and a half hours of instrumental music from the co-founder of Devo. This is mainly mood music, slipping easily into the background of most any activity, and varying from jazzy and bluesy to strange gamelan-like noises to space age synthetics. 28 cuts plus two "Index" tracks (with five seconds of each of the other cuts) make for a lot of listening. I know it will slip into my player again. (2CD/MG)

★★★★★

MOTORHEAD, "No Sleep At All" (Enigma Records, PO Box 3628, Culver City, CA 90231-3628): Most heavy metal is sort of like a machinegun, spraying out fast and furious bullets to waste everything in its path. Granting this metaphor, Motorhead is more of an assault cannon. They don't burn up their guitars with ultraspeed, but what they deliver will blow your head off anyhow. This is their 14th album, it's live, it's loud, it's good, get it. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

MY DAD IS DEAD, "The Best Defense" (Homestead Records, PO Box 800, rockville Centre, NY 11571-0800): Mark Edwards' approach to his solo material has matured considerably in the three years since his first album; now the music, though still jangled and harsh, is not so distressful as to prevent listening to the lyrics. Something is going right, because even though this album is leftovers and outtakes from other projects, it sounds good to me. A songwriter for the nineties who started a few years early. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE MYSTERY TRAMPS, "Tiffany Twisted" (Jeff Jarvie, 750-119 Noth, Indiana, PA 15701): A concept album, where the concept is to make spiteful and sexually-oriented fun of Tiffany, the 90's answer to Brooke Shields. The Tramps do go a long way towards puncturing the Tiffany mystique (if there ever was any in the first place), but alas, they still haven't learned to play any music more interesting than junior high pop-rock junk. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BILL NELSON'S ORCHESTRA ARCANA, "Optimism" (Enigma Records, 11264 Playa Ct., Box 3628, Culver City, CA 90231-3628): Very *different* music. Nelson lays down his basic tracks with a synthesizer, producing a very liquid, moving, changeable sound. But over the top are these oddball vocal loops, often only one or two phrases per song, that drone incessantly along. Every once in a while it all comes together, but more often the voices are a distraction from the music rather than an accompaniment. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

NO FRAUD, "Hard to the Core" (475 Foxglove Rd., Venice, FL 34293): Lighthearted but hardcore, No Fraud knows how to amuse as well as to overwhelm. They take a rather sardonic look at the scene with songs like "Blowing Chunks" and "Social Disease", pointing out a few of the many fun consequences of life in the fast lane. But they also get serious, with songs like "Resist the Urge for Power" and "No Social Cliques". Positive but not preachy. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

NOGGIN MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE, "Smokin That Kooky Hole!" ($3 from 4 Henry St., Lakerwood, NJ 08701): The cadences of annihilation energize this music — if music it is. The basic structure is one of extremely heavy slow rhythms of static and noise, punctuated by tape loops as well as standard instruments (keyboards and drums most prominently, but the guitar is there as well). Mind-numbing after a while in the intensity of its assault. (T/MG)

★★★★★

NOVA, "Another Song of Life" (Indigo Records, PO Box 611, Mt. Sinai, NY 11766): This band's PR claims their main object is to elevate "not standing for anything" to a worthy goal in its own right. To this end ringleader Tom Curran pens deliberately ambiguous words, which are backed up with pleasant light rock. Nothing too challenging here, nothing that wouldn't fit in on a mellow station, but it's all well-executed. (T/MG)

★★★★★

ORCHESTRE METROPOLITAIN, 3 works (Centrediscs, 20 St. Joseph St., Toronto, ONT M4Y 1J9): This young Quebec orchestra presents three somewhat experimental works from modern composers. John Rea's "Over Time" has a sort of haunting quality, despite not following the usual rules. Michel Longtin's "Autour d'Ainola" is the most experimental of the bunch, making the strings jump around until they sound electronically altered. I prefer the closing piece, Claude Vivier's "Siddharta", a grand, sweeping work based on the Hesse book that exercises both the musicians and the listener to their limits. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

THE PANDORAS, "Rock Hard" (Restless Records, 11264 Playa Ct., Culver City, CA 90231): Well-polished garage-influenced raw rock from a group that's been around a while, with Paula Pierce still anchoring the changing line-ups. There's a couple of new double entendre pieces ("Six Times a Day" and "He's Coming") on this album, as well as other numbers that seem just an excuse to dance. As Paula points out, this is the way guys sing about girls — so what's wrong with vice versa? (EP/MG)

★★★★★

JEAN PAPINEAU-COUTURE, "Idee, Slano, Depart, Versegeres, and Dialogues" (Centrediscs, 20 St. Joseph St., Toronto, ONT M4Y 1J9, CANADA): Five works composed by Papineau-Couture, "the Dean of Quebecois music." He calls his work "constructivist", and while I no doubt lack the classical training to appreciate the implications of that term, I can tell you that they're not entirely accessible. There is very little going on at the surface of these piece, scored for the most part for a single instrument. Obviously some structure holds them together, and they are recognizable wholes, yet the decisions that make them so seem rather arbitrary. It's an odd feeling, but this is music that has left me on the outside looking in. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE PARALON SECURITY, "Succession to the Throne" b/w "Trip Around the World" (Channel 83, PO Box 7303, Minneapolis, MN 55407): Poppy music with lots of rough, jangly edges to it. The A side builds nicely at the start, but then just sort of peters out. "Trip Around the World" is better, with a psychedelia meets Herman's Hermits sound that could do well with a bit of honing. (45/MG)

★★★★★

PATRONIZED HUMOPLASMS, "All Broke Down - Can't Be Fixed" ($4 from Xkurzhen Sound, State House PO Box 207, Boston, MA 02133): Live improvisation (with occasional post-processing) from a group of little fixed membership which has now disbanded. These are something like industrial jazz, clangy but serendipitous. A few of the best bits here seem scattered until a few moments before the end when they come together with an "Oh, of course" feeling. An exploration of "the realms of the Vortex". (T/MG)

★★★★★

PBK, "die brucke" ($5 from PBK, 115 W. 3rd, San Bernardino, CA 92405): Slow-moving, rich synthesizer music that's nearly overwhelming through headphones. The interplay of sounds drags the listener along to dark and deep realms of thought, in a way that reminded me of Lovecraft's description of the descent to dreamland. Eerie and exciting. (T/MG)

★★★★★

PBK, "I - Descent" ($5 from PBK, 115 W. 3rd, San Bernardino, CA 92405): A collaboration between PBK, Dave Prescott, and Minoy. The first movement, "Desire", could be called the airport from hell sound: weirdly echoing found vocals, a low rumbling bass line that's the closest thing to a melody, and an overall feeling of terror. The B side, "Descent" is more relaxed and contemplative — which is definitely not the same thing as wimpy. (T/MG)

★★★★★

PCR, "Myths of Seduction and Betrayal" ($5 from Harsh Reality, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): Heavily structured musical noise in an electronic vein. Ultimately, though, this structure is its downfall — there's next to no range here, only increasingly maddening repetitions of extremely simple lines, little more than a rhythm with minimalistic changes behind it. By the end of the tape I was only glad it was over. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE PENETRATORS, "Kings of Basement Rock" (Venus Records, 622 Broadway #5B, New York, NY 10012): Raw-edged vintage basement rock from a decade ago. Led by Eliot "Spike" Kagan, the Penetrators have something of the energy and looseness of the Avengers early work. The music is pure rock that's not polished, from a rolling cover of "It's My Life" to originals like "Life Stinks" and "Rock'n'Roll Face". A fun release. (LP/MG)

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★★★★★

PEPPERMINT SUBWAY, "Subterrainian Jungle" ($3 from PO Box 3529, Cincinnati, OH 45201): Hot psychedelic gothic music. It's a strange combination, full of lightning guitar work behind songs about LSD overdoses, pretty lies, lives sinking slowly into the slough of despair, and like that. It adds up to an eerie bit of cognitive dissonance, and one that blasts through the crusts over your brain in the morning like good strong coffee. Nine songs long and with a lyric sheet, this is worth checking into. (T/MG)

★★★★★

HEATHER PERKINS, "Living Room" ($5 from heather Perkins, Land-O-Newts, 3851 Hilyard, Eugene, OR 97405): An improv collaboration of offbeat weird little hims, hums, and ho's. It's very much like a series of abrupt one-act plays, where nothing is fully developed and each is an entity unto itself with little regard to what is before or after it. (T/CS)

★★★★★

HEATHER PERKINS, "Why I Did It/Binky's Revenge" ($5 from 3851 Hilyard, Eugene, OR 97405): Graceful electronic rock with forays into funk and sampling. The A side features somewhat portentious and Highly Meaningful vocals; the B side is just for the music fan. The stuff bounces through many changes without devolving into mindlessness or industriality. (T/MG)

★★★★★

PHANTOM OPERA, "Lives of Violence" ($7.50 from New Alliance Records, PO Box 1389, Lawndale, CA 90260): Fast tight hardcore with more musical depth than most thrash. Even though the lead quitar is wailing along with one simple line, behind it the bass is often doing something subtly different. Lyrics range from politically correct ("Third World Greed") to madly gothic ("Power to Kill"). Hot stuff. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

PINK SLIP DADDY, self-titled (Apex, 611 Cedar Dr., Collingswood, NJ 08108): The somewhat notorious Mick Cancer is back, fronting for a group including other members of Das Yahoos and Sickidz, notably Palmyra Delran who doubles on drums and bass. This is something like I'd imagine a rockabilly Iggy Pop with punk sensibilities to sound: very odd. Best bet is the anguished ballad of lost love, "Duke of Earl", which comes with a warning to radio programmers. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

PKU, "Fear's Hero" ($6.25 from YomKicker Productions, PO Box 866, Spokane, wa 99210): Garage-ish rock from a tight three-piece. They're extremely good at constructing seductive, swirling melodies that dissolve from feeling to feeling without ever losing track of where they're going. Unfortunately, lead singer Squid Mephistopheles' vocals just don't cut it, his flabby-edged near-monotone intruding on the mood created by the music. Get a new vocalist and they could do well as a four-piece. (T/MG)

★★★★★

POOCH, "Surfin' Kill City" (Polar Records, PO Box 363, Whittier, CA 90608): A three-song surf single from, oddly enough, one of the early LA punks. The A side, "Happiness is a 9'6"", is a pretty cool example of the traditional surf genre. I much prefer, though, the remake of "Palisades Park" with faster, harder (but still surf) music. In fact, I'd like to hear more surf/punk crossover that remains music instead of satire. (45/MG)

★★★★★

ROBERT POSS & NICOLAS COLLINS, "Inverse Guitar" (Trace Elements Records, 172 E. 4th St. #11D, New York, NY 10009): Poss does bizarre things to electric guitars, feeding in Ron Reagan through the pickups, computer-prcessing the results, and otherwise extending the range of this instrument. After this, Collins is almost tame with his attempts to wring the last bit of nboise out of his instrument. Experimental noisic that shows we haven't plumbed all the depths of our tools yet. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DAVID PRESCOTT, "DP1" (Generations Unlimited, 199 Strathmore #5, Brighton, MA 02135-5210): "DP1" is the label's designation for this tape, entirely filled by Prescott's work "The Last Battle". This consists of two longish pieces: the A side of elegant massaged keyboards, which ill prepares the listener for the harhser B side, with heavily treated vocals and what sound like unanswered alarm clocks. Prescott's work tends to build and fall in waves of sound, providing pauses to catch your breath before launching into a new realm of exploration. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DAVE PRESCOTT & MINOY, "The Dying Man" ($8 from Minoy Cassetteworks, 923 W. 232 St., Torrance, CA 90502): Though this is subtitled as "an opera in six scenes", Minoy's vocals lose their resemblance to intelligible speech and become an instrument for many minutes before resurfacing. The structure here is quite complex, with the B side being a distorted mirror of the A side. Throughout, the two mix electronics together to produce an eerie caterwaul which hypnotizes even while it baffles. This one will repay deep listening. (T/MG)

★★★★★

PSYCHO, "You Love Us...You Hate Us..." (John Wolfe, Ax/ction Records, PO Box 623, Kendall Square, Cambridge, MA 02142): 9 thrashing songs on transparent golden vinyl for all you collectors. Psycho have the art of playing fast and tight down perfectly, and about all the listener can do is lean back and let the power wash over him. It's hard to believe there's only 3 instruments and vocalists here, but it's the truth. A hurricane of noise. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

PUSSY GALORE, "Sugarshit Sharp" (Caroline Records, 5 Crosby St., New York, NY 10013): The basic idea behind these folks is to do as much aural damage as possible with their guitars, though the Albini production does bring some tinges of melody back in. Anyone who would include sheet metal as an essential part of the band, and cover an Einsturzende Neubauten song, needs serious help. Unfortunately no sane person would get close enough to this band to offer it. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

RAGING SLAB, "True Death" (Buy Our Records, PO Box 363, Vauxhill, NJ 07088): Heavy metal done the old fashioned way: loud and with bonecrushing bass. Actually all the guitar work on this one is pretty hot, particularly on driving tunes like "Shrivel", where the beat can lift you out of your seat whether you want to go or not. Grab a brew and a copy and settle back. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

RAINING VIOLET, "Ocean of Dreams" (c/o Ivy Markaity, 51 W. 81st St. #6L, New York, NY 10024): Beautiful melodic expressive rock. Lead singer Ivy Markaity has a haunting voice which weaves in and out of the restrained guitar and keyboard work, leaving no doubt as to who's in charge of this music. The title track is wonderful, but so is "Overexposed", a non-anthemic anti-nuke song that combines good music with a point. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

JOANNE RAND, "Home" (739 McKenzie SW, Olympia, WA 98502): Beautiful mostly-acoustic folk (though electric instruments and synths are used sparingly when appropriate) with expressive vocals and a message that cames through without bludgeoning the listener. Joanne could probably carry this off a capella — that's how good her voice is — but with the guitar and piano backing, these songs surround and comfort you. There's a strong ecological consciousness behind most of this work, a sense of being a part of the world rather than just living in it, and a sense that we've got to get our act together soon or lose it. (T/MG)

★★★★★

RAPED TEENAGERS, promo flexi (Chickenbrain Records, PO Box 3016, 125 03 Alvsjo, SWEDEN): Fast-paced music with more of a rock than a punk sensibility — even touches of organ and violin. The vocals are near-hardcore but somehow the music isn't. Chickenbrain also sent their catalog, all in Swedish — apparently they distribute lots of records out there, so other indies might want to get in touch. (FL/MG)

★★★★★

RAW POWER, "Live in the USA '84" ($4 from Bad Compilation Tapes, PO Box 16205, San Diego, CA 92116): This is one of BCT's flagship bands, and the name is definitely appropriate. Raw Power deliver a guitar-heavy hardcore attack with headburning vocals and powerful rhythms. This tape captures 43 cuts from 6 gigs around the country, with two versions of a few songs but still a great deal of variety. Quality isn't real great but you'll be playing it at distortion-inducing levels anyhow, so who cares? (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE REST OF THE BOYS, "Days Weeks and Years" (Restive Records, Postfach 2204, 2400 Luebeck, WEST GERMANY): Pretty melodic rock with a bit of a jangly edge from this three-piece. Though they play in Germany all the songs are in English, and there's even a lyric sheet, so we provincial types won't have any trouble. Their musical version of "Pierre Laughed" — the story of the guy who puts stuff in every 1000th jar of jam — will warm the hearts of anarchists and syndicalists everywhere. Most of the other cuts seem pretty resigned about this life stuff. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

KIM ROBERTSON and **VIRGINIA KRON**, "Celtic Christmas II" (Invincible Music, PO Box 13054, Phoenix, AZ 85002): A followup to last year's successful album, this one showcases Kim's work on the Celtic harp, this time joined by Virginia on cello. The tunes are taken from a variety of traditional cultures, from 13th century French to American folk, so there are only a few things you'll immediately recognize as Christmas. But this hardly seems to matter once you're lost in the liquid notes of the harp, nicely offset by the understated accompaniment. Invincible continues to put out

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music that could be New Age if it were not for its utter quality and lack of sappiness. (T/MG)

★★★★★

ROUGHHOUSE, self-titled (SMC Productions, PO Box 308, Lansdale, PA 19446): Straightforward rock with some metallic overtones and a lot of energy. It's all pretty slick, which is not surprising since this is a CBS/Columbia release. These boys can pound out a good strong tune that gets your juices flowing, but they're not doing anything too novel or risky. It's sort of interesting to hear the hard rock sound combined with the fact that most of these are love songs, though. (T/MG)

★★★★★

LARRY RUHL, "Idiosync" (128 Alcott Dr., Windsor, CT 06095): Off-the-wall synthesizer music than ranges from crazy kids tunes (some including authentic wailing babies) to the off-color "Eatin' Mary's Beaver" (part of the "Characters From the Corporate Side" suite). Larry has a wedged sense of humor that reminds me a bit of the Bonzos, though his instrumentation is more playful than lush. (T/MG)

★★★★★

RUN-D.M.C., "Christmas in Hollis" b/w **SWEET TEE**, "Let the Jingle Bells Rock" (Profile Records, 740 Broadway, New York, NY 10003): A green-vinyl Christmas promo that is strong in the cognitive dissonance department. Well, to be honest, the rapping A-side is pretty good and does get me in the spirit of the season. But the hip-hop B-side is just a bit *too* different from what I'm used to, and leaves me feeling vaguely puzzled. (45/MG)

★★★★★

RWA, "No Master" ($5 from Laurent Boyer, BP86, 33038 Bdx Cedex, FRANCE) Aggressive electronic rock with plenty of dissonant touches. The vocals range from growls to howls, settling down in the middle ranges of song only occasionally. The music tends towards minimalistic, but sometimes layers on the bass quite heavily, pounding in your skull. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SCARECROW, "Condemned to be Doomed" (16 DM from Thomas Haller, Sonnhalde 45, 7800 Freiburg, WEST GERMANY): Adrenalin-fueled sledgehammer-hard rock that doesn't let up from the first note to the last. From the sound of it, these five guys must lose ten pounds in a single performance. Disarmament and anti-nuclear activism are their main lyrical sources, but if you don't care, you can just sit back and let the pounding guitars ream out your ears. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

SDT, "Sonic Disruption Theory" ($7 from Paradox, 520 Scott #12, San Francisco, CA 94117): This isn't as loud and painful to listen to as the title might lead you to believe. Ratherm the word that comes to mind to describe SDT is "ominous". The music rumbles along, punctuated by Robert Hall's hi-test vocals and Peter Hansel' spurts of lead guitar, but always keeping the listener squirming in the seat. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

SEIZURE, "Is Money Your God?" (74 Osborne Ave., Norwalk, CT 06855): These punks open with a Henny Youngmanesque "Kill the Cops" spiel and proceed into some wide-open music, alternating humor and serious themes. It's easy to get worked up by songs like "Nobody 4 President" and "The Lie", especially when they're backed up by such high-power guitar work. A lighthearted romp through familiar punk territory that makes it all fresh again. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

SIGNAL 30 "Personal Hell" ($3 from Jon Vankin, 88 Cole Ave., Williamstown, MA 01267): Distortion to the max! This is apparently a solo project by Jon, with the music cranked to the edge of pain in a melange of synth and other noises. The lyric sheet makes it a bit clearer, as these are songs of opposition the system, wrapped up in a sort of macho technophilia. Not an easy tape to listen to, but will interest some on the far left. There's even an anti-Trilateral song. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SINK MANHATTAN, "Bleakhouse" (No Age Records, PO Box 54214, Philadelphia, PA 19105): Postmodern industrial ambient noise with a tune. You may be able to get some idea of the inherent contradictions here by contemplating the idea of a recognizable cover of "Come Together" performed on large metal drums, droning vocals, and bass guitar. This is definitely music, but it's music in a new direction, one that may be tough for many to appreciate. I liked it. Loud. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

SKI-A-DELICS, "Snow Bunny Bobby Katz and the Aspen Aspirin" ($5 from Greg Wildes, 10 Homer Sq. #2, Somerville, MA 02143): A five-piece who all play the electric ski: "a ski strung with a single piano wire from end to end and outfitted with a magnetic pickup". The result is surprisingly listenable, with notes ranging from deep bass on up, combining to give a sort of Eastern feel, all esoteric and mysterious. An American yoga of sound. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SOCIAL UNREST, "Now and Forever" (Libertine/Konkurrel, PO Box 988, San Francisco, CA 94101): Well, these guys play fast and loud. But you can understand the lyrics, and there's melody in there as well — so this is not mindless thrash punk. And check out some of these lyrics: "Think of youth and abreaction; the endless nights and insane creation. In mad obsession and what it meant to be, the secrets torn but the need to release - our sacred hearts. The heroin Jesus..." That's from "Highroller Desolation Angels", but the other 9 cuts here are similar mixes of apocalyptic esoterica. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

SOCKEYE, "It's a Crazy Elderly World!" (Dave, PO Box 2143, Stow, OH 44224): Musically, these guys aren't so hot; they're in the sloppy rock section, veering from hardcore to more traditional arrangements as it suits them. Lyrically, though, they're outrageous. A few of their offerings: "Fuck Your Cat", "Everyone I know is an Asshole", and "Sexual Retard". They don't seem to like work, other people, or much of anything else. Comes with a lyric sheet so you can rave along. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SONIC YOUTH, "Daydream Nation" (Enigma Records, PO Box 3628, Culver City, CA 90231-3628): Jointly issued by two of my favorite labels (Blast First is the other), this is quite a hunk of guitars. Sonic Youth do wonderful things with strange tunings, and most of these tracks start out hard and heavy. Too many of them end in a confused welter of discordant feedback, as if they couldn't think of a closing. But all is forgiven when you get to side 4, the "Kissability Trilogy", a high-powered romp with no looseness or uncertainty at all. When they're in this groove, they're damned good, even if they don't quite fill this dual-LP set with stuff of the same quality. (2LP/MG)

★★★★★

SPLIT HEAVENS, "Hydraulic Angel Hymns" (Office Records, PO Box 1792, Eau Claire, WI 54701): Beautiful moody slow-paced experiments in rock. The lyrical, liquid melodies combine with Joe Strell's deliberately-paced vocals to create a rather hypnotic effect. Very new wavish in its feel, but with a lot more depth and character than that label would normall imply. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SPONGETUNNEL, "Morons & Monsters!!" ($6 from Underdog Records, PO Box 14182, Chicago, IL 60614): From the ruins of Fudgetunnel and Sponge comes this mix of mayhem and humor. Playing mostly pop and rock, these boys make light of Springsteen and Bolan, and even do a deadpan Alice Cooper cover. But their originals are best: "Bus Ride Into Hell" and "CIA Operatives" both have the bounce and amusement value to garner some underground airplay. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

STARVATION ARMY, "Ticket to Oblivion" (PO Box 15007, Cleveland, OH 44115): Hard and angry heavy metal from a group that refuses to give up even after two unsuccessful 7" records. This time they're back on tape, and they do a pretty good job, in the grungy, lowball register of things. Plenty of energy, narsty lyrics, and enough attitude to choke a cat. (T/MG)

★★★★★

STRIPMINERS, self-titled (Community 3 Recordings, 416 E. 13th St. #12, New York, NY 10009): A heavy attack led by killer guitar work and incredible exuberance. These folks play just past the edge of control, shouting out raw vocals, tweaking the occasional sax to get unheard-of notes from it, and soaking things in sweat. The relentless attack on your eardrums will leave you breathless and anxious for more. Could turn Barry Manilow into a puff of dust. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

SUBLIME WEDGE, self-titled ($5 from Private Studios, PO Box 531, Wyandotte, MI 48192): Rock/jazz crossover that sounds something like Frank Zappa in his more playful moods. Indeed, with titles like "In-A-Gadda-Doug-Gourlay" and "Doot-N-Doi", you can tell these folks are playful right off. The music is bizarre and bouncy, with quick little feints and jabs to take you off gurard, notably from Marko Novachcoff's sax and flute playing. (T/MG)

★★★★★

LISA SUCKDOG, "booby-booby" ($6 from PO Box 1491, Dover, NH 03820): Howling and singing from Lisa backed up by a variety of improvisational music from various folks including Costes. A barrage of sound that isn't meant to lull you to sleep at all. Some of the dirtiest songs have French lyrics but an English translation is kindly provided. Pretty far from even the unbeaten paths. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SHAWN SWAGERTY, "S. Swag. Et. Al." ($2.50 from 428 Ridge St. NW, Washington, DC 20001-4622): Musical constructions with a light and airy sound about them, but buttressed by strong chords and rhythms. Some of this almost sounds like toy instruments, but then Shawn and company get rolling with drums and guitar and the music hits a groove — sort of industrial pop, contradiction though that may be. Synthesizers and tape loops seem to carry most of the weight here. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SWINE BOLT 45 "Rotary Canteen Object" ($5 from Xkurzhen Sound, Michael Jackson, State House PO Box 207, Boston, MA 02133): Slow and gentle, flowing synthetic and natural sounds. The whole tape is pretty minimalistic, exploring its territory in a very cautious way, except for occasional bolts of distorted vocals or bits of guitar. Among the most listenable of experimental works I've heard lately. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SWINE IS MENTAL, "Date With a Meathook" (Sound of Pig, 28 Bellingham Ln., Great Neck, NY 11023). On this release, Swine is Mental sometimes sound like Piero Milesi (side A) and sometimes like Boy Dirt Car (side B), and sometimes like Piero Milesi playing with Boy Dirt Car. Very eery, very rhythmic. Only "Wish I Had..." really disappoints. Good music and a good quality recording to boot. The label and band names explain the pig-related cover art, liner notes and somewhat silly song titles. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

SWINGIN' TEENS, "Step Out and Meet Allah!" ($6 from Prospective Records, PO Box 6425, Minneapolis, MN 55406): Somewhat sloppy and decidedly high-power punk rock and roll. These guys are on the edge between Zeppelin and the Ramones, apparently taking great pride in playing all too loud (to judge by their press clips). On record it all comes across as one long blast of punk sludge with lots of guitars; perhaps it improves with sweat and spotlights. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

JOHN THAXTON, self-titled ($4 from Randy X., PO Box 289, BU Station, Boston, MA 02215): Folk is a long way from dead, and Thaxton proves it. Drawing on his own experiences as a bike messenger in San Francisco, he projects an ultimate sincerity that is quite infectious. Topically, the songs range from "Ghost on Montgomery" (the bike-messenger analog of "Roland the Headless Thompson Gunner") to "Legend of John Holmes" (no comment required, except that it's righteously good). Backed up by the Folk Kings, this is a hard-driving set that's worth a listen. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THINKING FELLERS, "Wormed, By Leonard" (PO Box 2827, Oakland, CA 94609): Slippery rock and roll chameleons. There's an amazing range on this tape, from Zappaesque narration to near-thrash to low-down smoky blues-feeling jams. The strong dual bass line makes a nice anchor to several cuts, but doesn't get monotonous because they jump around so much. All original and all enjoyable. (T/MG)

★★★★★

PAT THOMAS, "It's a Long, Long Way to Omaha, Nebraska...It's a Long, Long Way to Your Heart" (Heyday Records, PO Box 411332, San Francisco, CA 94141-1332): Light acoustic rock, almost folky, by Pat and a batch of friends including Chris Cacavas from Green on Red and Randy X. The result is a guitar-and-vocals led trip through a batch of lives, from the "Hard Boozing Woman" to the more introspective "Dear Miss Richards". Moods range from mellow to rocking, making a record that holds your attention well. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

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THE THREE JOHNS, "Deathrocker Scrapbook" ($8 from ROIR, 611 Broadway #411, New York, NY 10012): Wild and uncontrolled sloppy rock from these British lunatics. This is a collection of studio jams that didn't make their vinyl, including some hilarious and ridiculous cuts from their very first rehearsal ever. The music drips with stolen riffs, pounds with energy, and reeks with humor, though sometimes it turns dark and nasty. Bad boys indeed. (T/MG)

★★★★★

JUDY TORRES, "Christmas Time Won't Be The Same This Year" (Profile Records, 740 Broadway, New York, NY 10003): A green-vinyl promo with a single dance-pop song. As always, the industry timing leaves FF late in reviewing Christmas records, but this one was pleasant if a bit lightweight. It's easy to hear why Torres is popular in the dance club circuit; this is a wistful love song with a good beat and enough vocal emotion to make the words almost irrelevant. (45/MG)

★★★★★

TRUE RUMOR, "Silent Generation" (Minitrue Music Company, 65 Campbell Ave., Belford, NJ 07718): Don't let their heartland sound fool you — the strongest cut, "Iowa", is not about the state but rather the nuclear battleship, of which they are not fond. Classic rock riffs and harmonies, with a hint of surf sound now and then, combine with thoughtful lyrics to make this listenable if not exceptional. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

TWENTY FOUR HOUR WORLD, self-titled (Orphanage Records, PO Box 315, 1702 W. Camelback, Phoenix, AZ 85015): Mysterious gothic tribal rock. The backbones here are the hefty tom-tom drumbeats and the ominous processed anthemic vocals. These weave in and out to provide a lush, hypnotic but somewhat frightening sound. These folks manage to reduce human relations to a scary but exhilarating experience with their portentous lyrics and deeply felt music. (T/MG)

★★★★★

UNREST, "Malcolm X Park" (Caroline Records, 5 Crosby St., New York, NY 10013): An intriguing collection of tracks from a band that's been noodling around D.C. for years. Anchored by guitar that is by turns clangingly jarring and strangely ethereal, they produce songs with a wistfully unfinished song to them, inviting the listener to fill in the aural blanks. The haunting "Christina" is the best track here, but it's not alone in being good. Hardcore-cum-pop is a winning combo here. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE URBAN AMBIENCE ORCHESTRA, "Musique Du Jour" (Camaraderie Music, PO Box 403, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215): Very laid back: classical, ambient, improv muzak for the mellow-minded. Part atmospheric, part elevator. What you'd expect to hear in those new age bookstores that are cropping up. (T/CS)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "#@$" (Chaos Sound Unlimited, c/o Gunter Schroth, Hippelstr. 54, 8000 Munchen 82, WEST GERMANY): A collection of electronic music from nearly a dozen different German artists. This runs the full range from rock played with synths instead of guitars to primal noise to pieces incorporating skips and static to send you dashing to the turntable in panic. For the most part very rough-edged and unpredictable stuff. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Artifact Collective Audio" ($4 from Abscond, c/o Jake Berry, 2251 Helton Dr. #N7, Florence, AL 35630): A wide-ranging tape of experimental poetry and noise. Performers include Jake himself with a selection of his extremely hermetic work, Willie Smith spouting typically bizarre stories, John Bennett (with backing by Byron Smith) and his disturbing poetrants; and Jack Foley, who performs (with the help of Adelle Foley) an "Essay on Performance Poetry". In the sub-verbal spectrum there are noise attacks from Malok, Miskowski, and more. A time-bomb waiting to destroy all language. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Back to the Grindstone" ($6 from KO City Studios, PO Box 255, Dracut, MA 01826): A followup electronic collection to the successful "Ears to the Grindstone" compilation. Hot tracks here include the rich layerings of New Law Nightmare, the killer attacks from Mental Anguish, and the lead assault from Gelatinous Citizen. The performers & groups here read like a roster of the electronic/experimental underground. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Bands Only a Mutha Could Love" ($12.50 from Mutha Records, PO Box 416, West Long Branch, NJ 07764): One thing about CD compilations is that they hold a lot — in this case, 37 tracks from 31 bands ranging from rock to hardcore to metal. Standout tracks include The Gruesomes with "She's In My Room", a lovely tale of metalloid adolescence; Abnormal Growth's sardonic hymn to the Marines, "Go Joe", and the eerie vocals of Sticks and Stones. Other contributors include Bloody Mess, Free Love Society, Skid Marks, and X-Men. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Beautiful Happiness" (What Goes On, 151 First Ave. Box 169, New York, NY 10003): A collection of "Post-hardcore" music to enlighten the English. It's not a bad collection, though most is louder and sloppier than I care for: Drunks With Guns, Art Phag, Halo of Flies, Naked Raygun, Bastards. Notably better are tracks from DJ Lebovitz (his instrumental version of "Holiday in Cambodia") and "Coffee Achievers" from Stikky. Great stomach-turning cover painting of a home anatomy lesson. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Bonfire in the Boneyard, Parts 1-6" ($16.50 from Evios Empire Productions, PO Box 6904, East Grand Rapids, MI 49516): Six half-hour shows produced for college radio, featuring a grand total of 23 bands. Each band is given the chance to comment on their music, so the shows keep moving back and forth from music to interview. Just a few of the cuts I liked: Daver's "Place Called Heaven"; Theatre of Ice's "Gone With the Worms"; Ditto's "Urban"; and Joe Christ & the Healing Faith with "It's a Wonderful Life". Host Marlon Michaels pretty much lets the bands speak for themselves, so this comes across as a quiet trip through indie-music land. The bands range pretty far across the map — this is not just another college radio collection. Stations can receive a copy for free if they request it on letterhead with a name and phone number. (3T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Camera Obscura Sampler Vol. 2" ($5 from Lone Wolf, 1508 Faymont Ave., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266): A collection of pop-rock, acoustic and electronic music: wide-rangign but well away from metal or thrash or hardcoreland. Nice work comes from Heather Perkins, PBK, Chris Simmons, XISLE, Marc Tucker, Lauri Paiey and a batch of other folks. 19 tracks in all, with extensive liner notes. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Christmas '88 Compilation" (Perimeter Records, PO Box 28882, Atlanta, GA 30358-0882): Definitely *different* holiday listening material. The folks ont his tape tend towards industrial, electronic, experimental stuff, yet somehow work in enough sleighbells and hypnotic stretches to make most of it pretty pleasant. When all's said and done, it stands as an assault on the xmastime music cliches, certainly not to be mistaken for any other holiday product. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Dagger Killer Comp. Vol. 2" ($4 from PO Box 18152, East Hartford, CT 06118): Don't let the title fool you into thinking this is generic thrash metal. Instead what we've got here is 20 garage bands from all over. Some, like Marshmallow Overcoat and the Weeds, have made a bit of a name for themselves; others are relatively unknown. Special nods to The Ultra 5's sleazy cover of "Little Red Riding Hood", Leigh Fregory's inspiring and rocking "Open Up Your Ears", and the Vagabonds' "Surf Jerk". (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Eminate and Exude" (Dormant Utopia Records, 7647 S. Pierce Way, Littleton, CO 80123): Something in the southwest does weird things to people's minds. Though this compilation goes from near C&W ditties to industrial, most ofit is experimentalism of one flavor or another. This includes sampler works from None Other, madness from Little Fyodor, and a very abrasive number from Coral. Constant jumping froms style to style deprives the tape of unity but lends it mystery. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Essential Attitudes Vol. 3" (Refined Records, 2105 Maryland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21218): A richly varied collection of Baltimore-area music. Top tracks here include the indescribably tasty romp "Clever is as Clever Does" by the Paisley Zone, the neo-psychedelic "Up With the Lipp" from The Melvyn, and the energetic rocker "I Don't Care" by the SwillTones. 12 bands in all range from near folk through light rock to hard-driving. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Everybody Loves the 'Cello" (Collision Cassettes, 2834 McGee Ave., Berkeley, CA 94703): The hook for this compilation is that every track makes use of a cello in one way or another, most in ways not contemplated by the manufacturers of the instrument. Although a few people do turn in bits in the classical mode, they seem tame by compaison with the more experimental tracks, involving plucking and otherwise torturing the noble instrument, often with somewhat ambient or experimental accompaniment. Comes with contact addresses. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Folk Songs From the Twilight Zone" ($8.98 from Tremor Records, 403 Forest, Royal Oak, MI 48067): A Detroit-area compilation of things that would mostly be at home on college radio, though there are rougher and blunter groups here. Among the latter are the Vertical Pillows, who put out aggressive female rock. Other offbeat contributions include the gothic of 3-D invisibles and neo-folk from Volebeats. More solidly mainstream cuts from Junk Monkeys, Va-Voom, Shouting Club and 7 others hold the whole thing together. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Glitch Sampler #4: Texas — the Musical Melting Pot" (Glitch Records, PO Box 4429, Austin, TX 78765): The latest in this successful series of compilations of bands that should be better-known, most with a country twang to their new music. Bombshells here include "Country Punkin'", a crossover tune from Second Glance, and "Kick 'em in the Ass", a song by Los Deflectors that's right up there as an anti-work anthem with "Take This Job and Shove it". Other contributors include the Weeds, Peace Corps, Johnny Law, and 5 more. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Gregorian Chance" (Panman Productions, PO Box 1500, New York, NY 10009): Collaborative instrumental improvisations including international tracks featuring performers from Mexico and Poland. The music here is generally peaceful and fairly quiet, bright and bouncy at times and wistful at others, with lots of accents from things like Kalimba and Cello. Found sounds and synths play the major role in what seems to be on the boundary of New Age music but not as sappy as most such. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Harmony in Your Head" ($4 from Tim Alborn, PO Box 649, Cambridge, MA 02238): A fun compilation that went by pretty quickly. Only five bands, but with repeat offerings that give you a chance to really get a feel for what they're like. All are under the category of new or garage music, and while the production may not be top notch, the enthusiasm level certainly is. (T/CS)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Human Music" (Homestead Music, PO Box 800, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0800): A compilation of 26 bands, mostly with other Homestead vinyl out already. Since they didn't lay out a lot of money, some of this is crap, but of course there are standouts: Antietam's shredding "Stanley", Salem 66's "Red Barn", and Big Dipper's oddball "He is God", plus the best My Dad Is Dead cut I've heard so far. On the other hand, there are also tracks from GG Allin and Happy Flowers here, for those who prefer the anti-music side of the Homestead catalog. (2LP/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Japanese Hardcore Comp" ($3 from Akiko, 396 7th St. #2, Jersey City, NJ 07302): Actually, that's the subtitle, but I can't typeset the title characters. Hardcore is apparently the international language, since without the info sheet, you wouldn't know these 10 bands are from places like Tokyo and Nagoya. Pig Slaughter has the most incredible lyrics, with "Moralism Sucks" being just one of their pleasant thoughts. Other tracks come from Mink Oil, SIC, Cruck, and Nausea. Akiko is looking for non-profit distributors to dupe copies and pass 'em on. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "K-Hell Presents: It's Too Experimental!" ($3.50 from Whitewall Tapes, 968-B Snowfall Spur, Akron, OH 44313): A cross-section of the Akron scene including work from Randy russell, Dag Nabbit, Sean Hill, and others. Material ranges from covers of old classics like "Shop Around" to strange postmodern ròck like "Coffee Cup Ralphin'". Nothing too spectacular here, just midamerican garage (or coffee shop) rock. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Kids Sure Can Be Funny" ($3.50 from Whitewall Tapes, 968-B Snowfall Spur, Akron, OH 44313): This one is basically folks from Kent and surrounding towns just screwing around, including a long

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session with Randy Russell and Dave Wilner messing around at Spindizzy Records. Songs include "Louise, Louise", "Pissin' in the Street", and "Blitzkreig Bop". Lightweight but with a few chuckles. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "King Bar-B-Q III" ($4 from Craig Blomquist, Cud Brain Tapes, 48 Beck Rd., Lindenhurst, IL 60046): The really muddy and muted production on the majority of the work here obscured the fact that there were some good musical offerings to be found, In a nutshell, the theme was a mix of grunge, industrial, garage, inner city angst. But they way it came out dulled the edge it could have had into a sludgey mush. (T/CS)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "The Look of Utter Disbelief" ($6 from Ermine Music, 61-A Franklin St., E. Rockaway, NY 11518): A pair of EPs on a single tape. The A side features some bluesy fusion rock, with lots of acoustic guitar and some sax lines. The flip is improvisational jamming, both synthetic and otherwise, with a sort of primitive feel to it. Unfortunately the production on both is very, very flat, making this only a hint of what it could be. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Mighty Feeble" ($7.50 from New Alliance Records, PO Box 1389, Lawndale, CA 90260): Reissue of an out-of-print compilation album, with a strange concept behind it: everything here was recorded on cassette players. Besides the historical interest of tracks from Greg Ginn and Mike Watt, there's actually some decent music here (as well as a track to make you think your stereo is broken). Spot does his usual craftsmanlike job, Modern Torture, Epedermal Refraction, and other long-dead groups also wail away. Proto-punk, mostly. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Mondostereo" ($8 from Away From the Pulsebeat, PO Box M1482, Hoboken, NJ 07030): An amazingly good compilation of people doing original music, not fettered by genre limits but not mindlessly experimental either. Damned good tracks from B.A.L.L., Green, Lazy Cowgirls, Halo of Flies, and even Beat Happening and Jad & David Fair & Daniel Johnston. Art Black has managed to put together an outstanding value here. If **FF** ever does a compilation album, I'd want it to sound something like this. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Phonostatic #9" (911 N. Dodge St., Iowa City, IA 52245): This is the audio magazine companion of **PHOTOSTATIC**, exploring the boundaries of sound as art. The theme for this issue is "Concurrencies", with many of the contributions featuring rich layerings of sound. Notably deranged pieces come from the Tape-Beatles, X.Y. Zedd, and Chris Winkler. It's all wrapped in extensive liner notes that can make things comprehensible to the dullest reviewer. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Positively 13th Street" ($4 from Dunghill, PO Box 3766, Eugene, OR 97403): The second all-Eugene compilation tape has hit the streets, and it sounds pretty good. There are a couple of folks here (Snakepit and Heather Perkins) who've had good press in **FF** already, but most of these bands are new to us. Especially worth watching are Bovine Impulse with their songs of derangement, Flatlanders and their crazy Irish not-jig, and Some Velvet Sidewalk's perky rock. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Rat Music for Rat People Vol. I, II and III" (CD Presents, 1230 Grant Ave. #531, San Francisco, CA 94133): A CD compilation of three very popular collections of punk, post-punk and hard rock bands. It would be hard to find elsewhere such a solid sampler of offerings (DOA, Flipper, Bad Brains, Dead Kennedys, Black Flag, Butthole Surfers, MDC, Dicks, Raw Power, Corrosion of Conformity, Naked Raygun and more). To those who already have the albums, don't throw away your vinyl yet; a few songs here and there didn't make it on to the CS. But for first-time listeners, and fans of the CD format, you'll not find much wanting here. (CD/CS)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Rock Turns to Stone" (Vild Records, 185 Corey Rd., Boston, MA 02146): An all-Boston compilation album. If there's a "Boston sound" represented here, it's anchored by wiry guitarwork and harmonized vocals. But these bands do get about; they range from the wacky televangelism of Neutral Nation's "TV Salvation" to near-jokes like "I'm a Suck?!" from Big Huge to good solid rock from Rash of Stabbings, The Titanics, and Dogzilla. 12 bands in all, and a very solid collection it is. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "The Roots of Burning Bush" ($4 from Artists & Writers Underground, c/o Sarris Bookmarketing, 125 E. 23rd St. #300, New York, NY 10010): The 8th cassette comp of strange things from New York. This time around it includes Swedish hardcore, a sound collage made from the Tompkins Square Riot, smutty poetry about the City Commissioner of Sanitation, and the Wallmen, among others. It's all wrapped up by A.P.P.L.E.'s cover of "Blowin' in the Wind". (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Savage Pencil Presents Angel Dust" Music for Movie Bikers" (Blast First, 262 Mott St. #324, New York, NY 10012): A bizarre concept album that certainly perks up a cold afternoon. As it (almost) says, this is music and sound clips taken from biker movies, both the acid-soaked and the devil-worship types. The whole is presented with a wraparound album cover and lovely picture disc by English cartoonist Savage Pencil, and introduced by Steve Albini. Will definitely be a hit at your next party. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "The Secret War Against the Black Panthers and the Indian Movement in America" ($7 from 720 Carson Rd., Ottawa, ONT K1H 0K3, CANADA): Side B is devoted entirely to Ward Churchill's findings on the title topic, required listening for those who don't know about the abuses of COINTELPRO. The A side is more impressionistic, with ritual drumming, jazz improv, poetry from Cree Indian Lee Maracle and rap from Chuckie D. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Shadow Box" (Canadian Music Centre, 20 St. Joseph St., Toronto, ONT M4Y 1J9, CANADA): A collection of innovative compositions employing both classical modes and experimental tapework. These include Denis Lorran's "The Other Shape", in which apercussionist plays counterpoint to processed tapes of his own work, Larry Lake's eerie and meditative oboe/synthesized "Psalm", and three other pieces. The CMC continues to provide very high quality products featuring the best new composers of the country, and are to be heartily commended. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Smart Music for Smart People Vol. 1" (BNM, PO Box 1113, Clifton, NJ 07014-1113): Fifteen tracks of pop/rock stuff from up-andd-coming new bands. There are some real gems here, including the incredibly rich sound of Rebel Red's "(They Don't) Give a Damn" and the manic intensity of "Bust Some Heads" from Bouncing off Bob. Other groups features include the Selves, Immaculate Fools, The Fundamentals, and Maximum America. Comes with liner notes and contact addresses for all the bands. A high-quality promo item. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Suffer This" (Hullabaloo, PO Box 2129, Cambridge, MA 02238): Garage slop stuff that isn't as bad as the title of the record wants to make you think. The standouts here are Hullaballoo with their uncontrolled approach to making noise, and The Five, who do a bizarre pop death song to close out the set. Also features appearances from Jerkwater (hot cover of "The Rose"), Slaughter Shack, Hectic Heyday and Feeding Frenzy. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "The Thing That Ate Floyd" ($8 from Lookout Records, PO Box 1000, laytonville, CA 95454): A Northern California punk and what-not compilation featuring 34 bands on two LPs. I don't even have room to mention all the good tracks, but get an eye of this partial line-up: Vomit Launch, Sewer Trout (with "Vagina Envy" as hilarious as usual), Capitol Punishment, Crimpshrine, Stikky, Neighborhood Watch — and that's onlyt he ones I've heard of & like. Plenty of changes of pace, not too much mindless thrash, and a 24-page booklet with half a page of stuff from each band. Smoke some dope and visit the Bay Area with these records. (2LP/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Total Recess Grade 1" ($5 from Mystery Hearsay International, PO Box 240131, Memphis, TN 38124-0131): A compilation set of mostly electronic music, mostly without vocals. Within those parameters things vary widely, from the soft flowing music of Keeler to the harsher industrial sound of Mo Rhythm to the aimless wanderings of Bob X. Comes with contact info for the 14 bands represented here. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Total Recess Grade 3" ($5 from Mystery Hearsay International, P.O. Box 240131, Memphis, TN 38124). Excellent offerings from If Bwana, La Sonorite Jaune, and S-INK can't save this rather mediocre 90 minute international compilation from OMD and Howard Jones wannabees such as Nagamatzu and The High Tech Pagodas, both coincidentally from the U.K. If this cassette were pared down to 45 minutes, it would be worth listening to more often. Good only for its diversity and variety of unknown and relatively unknown artists. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Tropical Viruses II" ($4 from BCT, PO Box 16205, San Diego, CA 92116): A collection of hardcore from, of all places, Brazil. There are three or four groups here, captured live (and with pretty marginal equipment) and sounding pretty much like hardcore from any other country. A further display of international punk solidarity. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Two Jesses, NC Artists Compilation" ($5 from Watergate tapes, c/o M. Reams, PO Box 10331, Greensboro, NC 27404): The most visible name to be found here is Eugene Chadbourne, and if I tell you that his were the more tame offerings on this compilation you'll just begin to get an idea of what's to be had. Cross-industrial psycho-sound wanderings, snippets of TV and radio clips, electronic sputterings, 80's political consciousness mised with a 70's avant-garde performance and a 90's sense of anarchy in form and freedom. Though it's listed as a compilation, all of the offerings slid into each other; it was more like one continuous release than a series of contributions. (T/CS)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "The View From Below" ($4 from Orphanage Records, PO Box 315, 1702 W. Camelback, Phoenix, AZ 85015): Talk about keeping in theme! From the title of the release to the names of the bands (Orphans &

Widows, The Funeral Party, Burial Benefits, Theatre of Ice, to name a few) to the music itself — a style comprised of early P-Furs, Sisters of Mercy and Sergeant Pepper's Beatles, everything convinces you that below is where it's at. While not all the songs were knockouts, there were quite a few that were of interest. A solid release. (T/CS)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "What is Truth? Vol. Two" ($6 from Scott Marshall, Panic Records, PO Box 1696, Skokie, IL 60076-8696): With beautiful hand-painted and collaged covers and an edition of 1000, this one is going fast. The tracks here range from the utter noise attack of the Haters through Eugene Chadbourne's banjo solos to Gary Marks with a more traditional piano improv to The Blitzoids with a kazoo-laden "Theme From a Summer Place". All in all, a great release far out of the usual pigeonholes, with plenty of good soothing stuff to get you past the sharp prickly tracks. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

VICTIMS FAMILY, "Things I Hate To Admit" ($7 from Mordam Records, PO Box 988, San Francisco, CA 94101): Great hardcore with guitar playing like Jimi Hendrix on PCP. They make fun of wars, government, the hardcore scene, psychologists, and lots of other things, in a fun-filled manner with plenty of jazzy touches. Comes with an absolutely psychotic great lyric sheet too. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

VIOLENCE AND THE SACRED, "Failure Parade" (Carl Howard, Audiofile Tapes, 209-25 18 Ave., Bayside, NY 11360): Obviously meant to accompany a visual performance of some kind (as the liner notes attest), it's done well enough to be able to stand on its own for the most part. Bits of music, voices, noise, etc. manage to create a variety of feeling and conjure up visual images even without the physical thing in front of you. (T/CS)

★★★★★

VIOLENCE AND THE SACRED, "No Be Mean Maybe" ($5 from John Doe Recordings, PO Box 664, Stn. F, Toronto, ONT, M4Y 2N6, CANADA): Live improvisational stuff from a band that wanders around the industrial/electronic end of things. Somewhat unusual is their extensive use of spoken word material, both in tapes and read live as part of the performance. This combines with a wailing, clashing cacophony to leave an uneasy feeling behind long after the tape spins to an end. (T/MG)

★★★★★

VIVA SATURN, self-titled (Heyday Records, PO Box 411332, San Francisco, CA 94141-1332): Mellow and hook-filled rock from Steven Roback, formerly of Rain Parade. The sounds here are rather melancholy, slow music with lots of intermingled guitar and wistful vocals. Check out "Old World", an ode to a way of life not passing as quickly as it should. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

THE WARNING, "Cut the Crap" (Radicals for Christ, PO Box 1142, Victorville, CA 92393): Whatever else you may think of the Book of Revelation, it makes an appropriate intro for this hard-driving Christian heavy metal tape. The Warning know how to blast out the tunes, and the guitar solos are definitely apocalyptic. As for the lyric content, it may not bother you much, for the vocals are severely undermixed on most cuts here. But the overall message comes through loud and clear. (T/MG)

★★★★★

WARZONE, "Open Your Eyes" (Caroline Records, 5 Crosby St., New York, NY 10013): Skinhead hardcore that seems a bit more rational than the most extreme representatives of the genre. Unity and positiveness are stressed here, but straightedge doesn't get pounded at the listener and supporting the American Dream doesn't mean bashing minorities. The music delivers the expected mix of blazing guitar licks and anthemic lyrics, and the messages can in fact be pretty inspirational if you're feeling down. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE WATERBOYS "Fisherman's Blues" (Chrysalis Records, 645 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022): Authentic Irish folk music, recorded in County Galway. There's ten folks on the cover of this album,a nd they ll look like they're having a good time. The sound like it too, playing a mix of traditional tunes and things that have been spruced up a bit for the dance floor. No heavy messages, just bouncy music. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

DAVID WILCOX, "Breakfast at the Circus" (Capital-EMI of Canada, 3109 American Dr., Mississauga, ONT L4V 1B2, canada0; Straightforward guitar-based rock with just the slightest tinge of rockabilly. It takes a while for Wilcox to get moving, but when he does, he can deliver some powerfully addictive tunes, with "The Song He Never Wrote" and "Fire in My Bones" being the high points, almost sure to get your feet moving and your head humming. Also of note is "Layin' Pipe", a slightly naughty song in the "Big Ten Inch" genre. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

THE WIPERS, "The Circle" (Restless Records, 11234 Playa Ct., Culver City, CA 90231-3628): Rich, dark music from Greg Sage, whose work on the outskirts of punk dates back over a decade. In the most aggressive of these tracks, "Good Thing", the guitars build up into a solid wall of sound, threatening to completely overwhelm any semblance of words or tune. Yet other tracks, such as "Blue & Red", are quieter and more contemplative. This music has earned the right to be called post-punk. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

ERNEST WOODALL, "Albert's Warning" ($6 from Ernest Woodall, Daystar Music, PO Box 411, Huntington Stn., NY 11746-0333): A set of musical experiments, or "suites" as Ernest calls them. For the most part identified only by such tags as "minimal/twelve tone" on the program, these are in fact quite engrossing bits of mostly-keyboard playfulness. There's a quite full sound here, and the end results are rather absorbing, from the playful down to the utterly serious and constrained. Neither as flashy nor as annoying as most synthesizer albums. (T/MG)

★★★★★

X MEN, self-titled (Buy Our Records, PO Box 363, Vauxhall, NJ 07088): Debut album from a bunch of punks with an interesting tack: not all of their songs sound alike. This may be due to an infusion of pop sensibilities, musical talent, or simple boredom with repetitious hardcore. They're also not real big on making statements as opposed to making music. Some might see this as watered down; I think it's a welcome change of pace, though not a good steady diet. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE YANOMAMOS, "Quizas" (New Alliance, PO Box 1389, Lawndale, CA 90260): Side one kicked some serious ass, with ringing metallic guitar chords and notes, tin-drum beats and rhythms and a melody reminiscent of early New York "melodic noise" says when Swans were just knee-high to a metal scrapyard and Sonic Youth were sonic babes. Tightly written, it was on and over before you could say "Live Skull". Side two carried on in the same vein, however my enthusiasm for it flagged a bit: the song here tended to go on a bit too long and drifted towards the self-indulgent with less rhyme and reason to it. (EP/CS)

★★★★★

MUSIC NOTES

•**Archives on Audio** (PO Box 170023, San Francisco, CA 94117-0023) is an outlet for conspiracy theory tapes from Dave Emory. Topics include various assassinations, Jonestown, The CIA & Narcotics Traffic, and The Aryan Nations.

•**CKUT 90.3 FM** (Ste. B-15, 3480 McTavish St., Montreal, PQ H3A 1X9) is the McGill University FM station and it seems to be growing fast. They sent me a whole stack of playlist stuff as well as the news that they're doing an experimental compilation cassette in April.

•**Daystar Music** (PO Box 411, Huntington Station, NY 11746-0333) is looking for new artists for their cassette label. Current releases run towards synthesizers and light experimental, soundscapes and psychedelia. Send an SASE with your demo tape if you want it back.

•**DM NEWSLETTER** #40-41 (PO Box 58152, Philadelphia, PA 19102-8152) is a bit of self-promotion put out by the madcap group Dead Milkmen. For a few stamps you can probably get on their mailing list and read snide replies to letters and silly advice mixed with real news of the band's recording and playing progress.

•**DRIVETRAIN** is a newsletter from the band of the same name, an unsigned garage pop or something band. You can get an issue by writing them "a cool letter" at Box 115, 2718 SW Kelly #C, Portland, OR 97201.

•**EBB-TIDE** (PO Box 2544, Baton Rouge, LA 70821) runs a rare record search & sales serive. SASE for more details.

•**FRESH AIR** is the playlist and fundraising newsletter of KFAI-FM which plays all sorts of progressive and underground music. Subscribers get discounts at some sympathetic businesses and a nice list of what's playing. $35/yr from 1518 E Lake St. #209, Minneapolis, MN 55407 — if you live in the Twin Cities and listen to alternative music.

•**Frontline Tapes** (3751 Little Neck Pt. Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23452) carries various little-known hardcore and thrash acts. SASE for pricelist, I guess.

•**GGE Records** (PO Box 5088, Kent, OH 44240) has a new catalog of their tapes out, featuring the Ice Cream Blisters, Big City Orchestra, Ray Carmen and more. Send a stamp for your copy.

•**HEADLINE #9** is the newsletter for Nixon's Head, another of those crazy Philadelphia bands. This issue reports on their gradual move to fulltime musicianhood and other odds and ends. Maybe an SASE would work to 4432 Silverwood St., Philadelphia, PA 19127.

•**Heyday Records** (PO Box 411332, San Francisco, CA 94141-1332) will send you a catalog for an SASE.

•**KAOS 89.3 FM** (Evergreen State College, CAB 305, Olympia, WA 98505) sent along their summer playlist. From the size of it they must add damned near everything they're sent, so you indie types might want to send 'em a promo, or at least an SASE for a copy.

•**Knall Syndicate** (Box 4386, Hospitalslokkan, 7002 Trondheim, NORWAY) is an indie label that will send a catalog of their titles for 2 IRCs.

•**The Mix Bookshelf Catalog** (6400 Hollis St. #12, Emeryville, CA 94608) features information and technology for today's high-tech musicians. This ranges from tapes on synthesizer programming to MIDI software to sample libraries on CD to desktop video tools. Drop 'em a line to get on the mailing list for this slick 68-page typeset catalog.

•**Jacek Mlodochowski** (Lubicz 23, 35-230 Rzeszow, POLAND) writes "I got a show in the student radio station called 'CENTRUM' & I got a request. Could you advertise that I'm searching for indie music for my show? If somebody would like to send me some I'll play it". Jacek's English is not so hot but further on it looks like he may be able to swap some stuff for such music, so drop him a line.

•**THE MUSIC VIDEO COLLECTOR** is a 34-page catalog of videos for sale, from Sinatra to Twisted Sister. The catalog is $2.95 from J. Rochet & Associates, 114-41 Queens Blvd. 3127, Forest Hills, NY 11375.

•**The New Music Distribution Service** (500 Broadway, New York, NY 10012) has a catalog with hundreds of obscure recordings from a hundred or so independent labels. You can become a friend of NMDS and get free shipping for $25; I suppose they'd send you this 150-page typeset catalog, with reviews of everything they stock, for about $5.

•Steve Peters writes, "When I was in Spain, I came across **Radio Bigarda Libre** in the small mountain town of Cuenca. Mostly run by teenagers out of a ratty old apament w/ratty old equipment (they had a blaster plugged into the board playing 20th generation dubs of American speedmetal cassettes). This is a semi-underground (legal but non-government supported) station that will play all sorts of stuff & is hungry for music but has no money. People should send records or cassettes of their favorite music to: Radio Bigarda Libra, c/o Florentino Canas Moya, Alfonso VIII #79, Bajos 3rd Pta., 16001 Cuenca, SPAIN."

•**RICE RADIO FOLIO** is mostly a playlist, but they do editorialize about local alternative music problems surrounding Rice University. They also seem to be planning expanded issues in the near future. For more info write to PO Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251.

•**SS Fucking Tapes** (c/o Evandro Marquardt, Caixa Postal 475, 89600 - Joacaba - SC, BRAZIL) is a source for obscure South American hardcore tapes. They're real anxious to swap zines, tapes, records, and videos.

•**Swaddle Records** (Wernhoutseweg 195, 4884 mc Wernhout, HOLLAND) has released several socially-conscious records from Acorns, Funeral Oration, Scoundrels and others. There's a special deal for fanzine publishers or those who can distribute copies.

•**WKDI** (544 College Ave., Dekalb, IL 60115) is still sending me their regular playlists. They play mostly indies, and now and then find space and time to print a few quick reviews.

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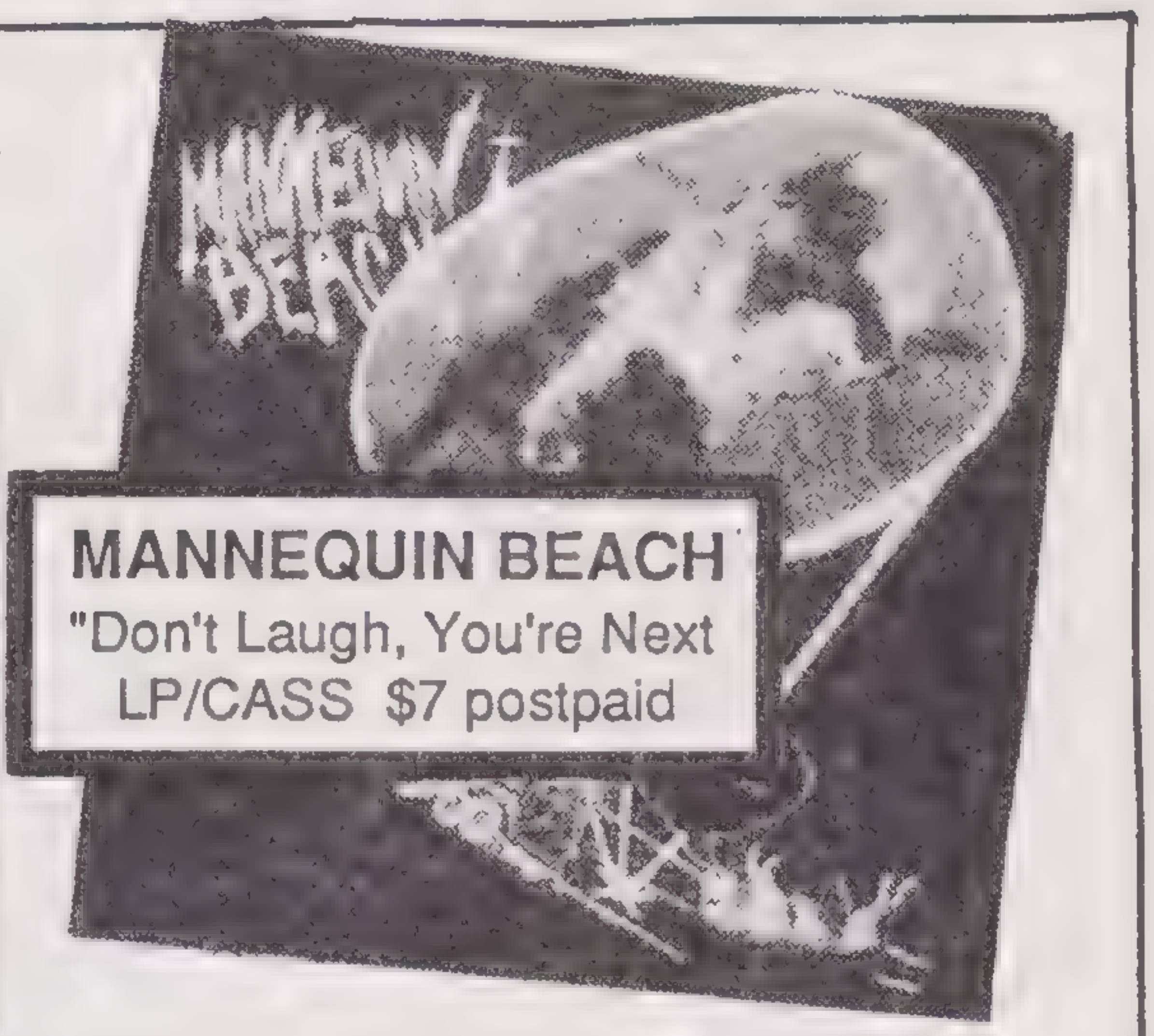

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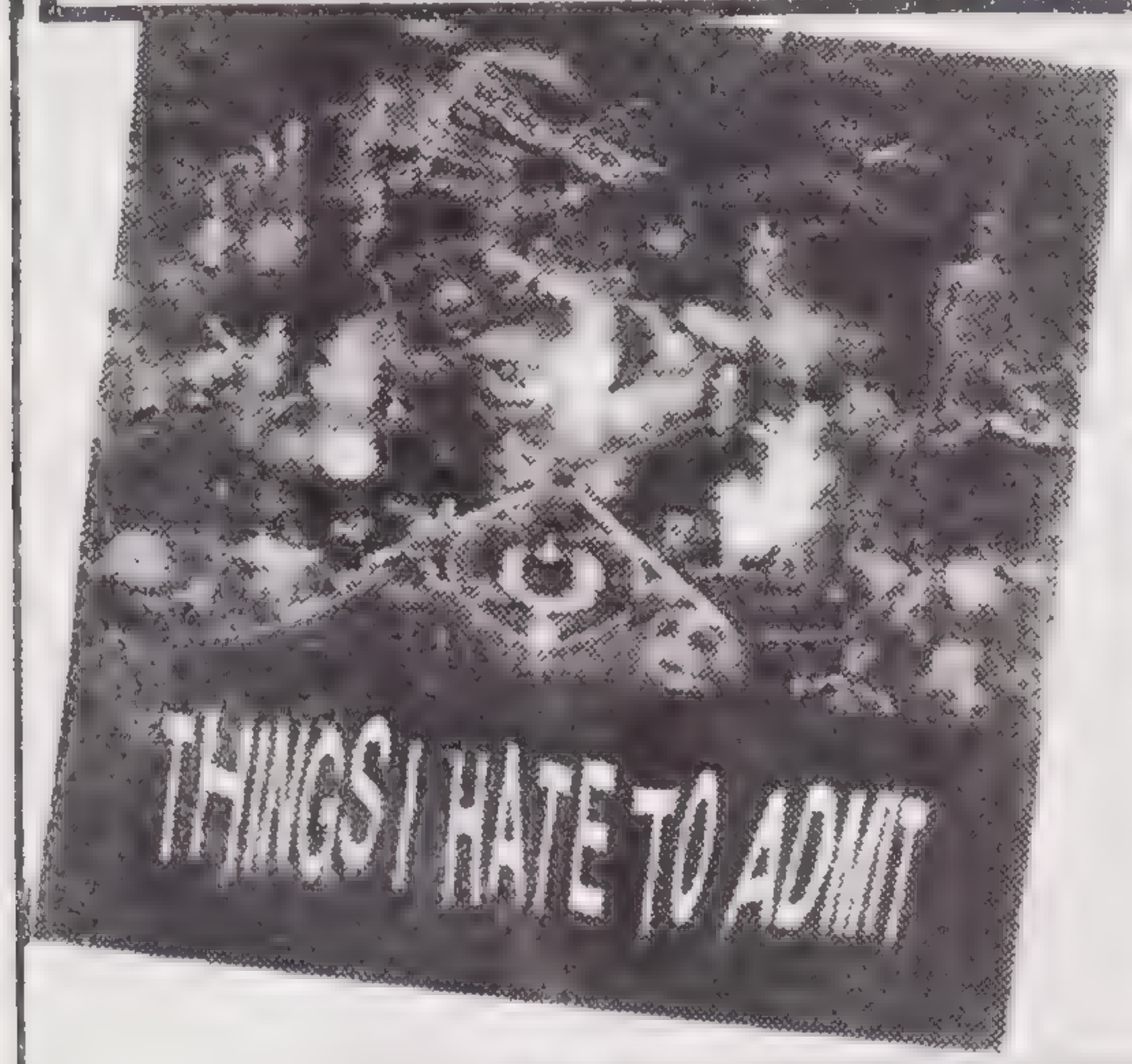
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BOOKS

THE 1989 SAFER SEX DIARY & DATEBOOK ($10 from Tuppy Owens, Box 4ZB, London W1A 4ZB, ENGLAND): A delightful little datebook with much end-matter to make it recommended reading for the erotically-orineted. Tuppy has been doing this for quite a while now, and obviously she (and her correspondents) knows her stuff. There's everything from an international list of swinger's clubs to a sexual phrasebook in a dozen languages here, wrapped around the calendar pages in the center.

This being 1989, AIDS comes in for some attention, and the emphasis is on safer sex. This doesn't mean less fun, only more creativity — as well as some features like "condom of the week" reviews. The whole is lushly packaged with an erotic marbled cover and musk-scented ink.

This is tasteful but a turn-on, and obviously a labor of love as well as one of lust. Give a copy to someone you want to know better, or treat yourself — and find out where the red light district is in Leningrad, the sex shows in Sao Paolo, or the Swinging singles hangouts in El Paso. (194 pp. hc)

★★★★★

1989 WRITER'S MARKET, Glenda Tennant Neff (Ed.) ($22.95 from Writer's Digest Books, F&W Publications, 1507 Dana Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45207. ISBN 0-89879-330-0): You could call this the Factsheet Five for the "major press", but that probably wouldn't do justice to either publication. This is a good place to start if you aspire to selling to your one liner/anecdote/article/short story/novel/epic series for real bucks somewhere. It lists about 4000 places where you can submit (or query), all sorted out, subdivided, categorized, and indexed so you can easily find whatever you want from the Amberly Greeting Card Company to Zondervan Corporation book publishers. It tells you where they are, what they buy, how much they pay, how to submit, and gives you a tip on their current thinking (Example: "Writers should be familiar with growing and marketing onions." — D. Brent Clement, ed., **ONION WORLD**.) This is a book well worth going to the library for (Gawd — don't buy it unless you're in the business and can write it off every year), but don't get fooled into thinking it has biblical qualities. The entries are the result of questionires that WM sends out, so they are only as reliable as the people who fill them out and return them, and they can only be returned by people who get them in the first place. Some don't bother (**SATURDAY EVENING POST, COSMOPOLITAN, MOTHER JONES** and **NATIONAL LAMPOON** among them) and others have asked to be delisted (**LIFE**) so not everyone is included. Also, there are probably about 5000 slick-cover trade magazines published in this country, and only about 10% of them are covered here. And don't forget, WM only comes out once a year, so by December its relationship to reality ain't what it used to be.

In addition to the individual entries, WM also includes some solid no-nonsense sections on how to make your stuff salable, how to make multiple sales, and how to conduct the writing business, all of which is well worth the time taken to read it. It also has about a dozen or so ho-hum interviews with editors. publishers and writers.

As you might expect, the "small press" doesn't get much coverage here. **FS5** isn't among the blessed (it probably could be if you sent for a questionaire — get on the ball, Mike), but if you look under the "Journalism and Writing" category, you'll find entries for things like **DUSTBOOKS, SMALL PRESS REVIEW** and Janet Fox's **SCAVENGER'S NEWSLETTER** and you can take it from there. (Guest review by Frank C. Gunderloy, Jr.)

★★★★★

David Alexander, **WHIRLWIND** (PHOENIX #5) (Leisure Books, 276 5th Ave., New York, NY 10001): I confess, I read some of those terrible, violent series of books like THE EXECUTIONER and THE DESTROYER — the male equivalent of Harlequin Romances. This was a new one on me, but I took the time to dig in, since it was written by the husband of a zine publisher — who, understandably, would prefer not to be further identified.

It's a good read. Set in a post-nuclear world where the U.S. has not quite gotten its act together again, it's the story of Magnus Trench, aka Phoenix. He's your typical gun-toting superman, tough as nails, brave as can be, and bright too. With a couple of suitably deranged assistants, he spends this book breaking into Nuked York City: a rather thoroughly destroyed place, ruled by the Dark Messiah, a class-A creep.

Alexander gets all the essential ingredients in: unbelieveable feats of daring (starting with a bloodcurdling firefight in the Lincoln tunnel), sudden reverses, cliffhangers, a bit of romantic interest, mutants, and more — including the obligatory detailed descriptions of firearms and explosives. The writing moves quickly but unpredictably, and at the end, you're left wanting more. (191 pp. pb)

★★★★★

Alan Allen (ed.), **STORY TELLIN'** ($9.98 from The Press of San Francisco, 2440 - 16 St. #234, San Francisco, CA 94103): Alan had a different idea for a book: he put up posters in the buses and cable cars of the Muni (San Francisco's public transit network) inviting the drivers to submit their stories. They did, he put them together, and it works.

A few of the pages in here qualify as funny stories, but most are just chunks of life that add up to the stew that is driving a bus (or a cable car). Reading through here you'll learn about the good people and the stinkers, the mechanical machinery that stops the cable cars and the computer that gets screwed up with ghost trains, the Christmas presents and the fights. Lots of great tales give us a hint of what must be centuries of collective experience.

I could see this developing into a whole shelf, with a book from Boston T drivers, one from the Washington Metro, and so on. But until it does, you might want to check this one out. It's small and the pricing is high, as small press economics dictate. But it might put some fun into your day. (M-85t)

★★★★★

MINERVA ALLEN'S INDIAN COOKBOOK ($2 (?) from Wowapi, 5746 Oram, Dallas, TX 75206): The Wowapi people have been involved in preserving Native American culture for some time now so I believe this is on the level. The title page says it's "from the Elders of the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes on the Fort Belknap Reservation". Some of this is fairly standard cookery: pot roast with venison, for example, or sourdough bread. But there are other recipes that sound more traditional to the outsider, like two kinds of pemican. A lot of things here, though, will revolt the modern stomach: intestines, or beaver tail, or prairie dog (get them out of their holes by filling with water), or, the piece de resistance, "Cooking Puppy". A curious little booklet. (D-24)

★★★★★

Antero Alli, **ANGEL TECH: A MODERN SHAMAN'S GUIDE TO REALITY** ($11 from PO Box 45758, Seattle, WA 98145-0758): Okay, bunky, you read the **ILLLUMINATUS!** trilogy a decade ago, went on to **COSMIC TRIGGGER** and the first book of Tim Leary's that you could lay your hands on. Maybe you even delved into a copy of **PRINCIPIA DISCORDIA** or **MAGICK IN THEORY AND PRACTICE**. You know all about the eight-circuit model of the human brain, the dangers of Chapel Perilous, and your right to be a Star. Now what?

Well, you could do worse than to read — and *use* this book. Alli has taken the ideas of Leary and Wilson and Hill and all the other wild folks in their intellectual family tree, added his own experience, and boiled it down into a user's manual for this brain, body, mind and reality that you're inhabiting. The goal is nothing less than integrating your creative ("angel") and rational ("tech") natures in order to have a better time being you, and to make the world more fun to live in. To this end he provides suggestions, theories, maps, models, peptalks, cautions, and lots and lots of practical exercises, starting with the simple physical self and proceeding to far-out realms of alchemy, Tarot, and astrology, then into the atomic nucleus itself.

I must admit that despite my best attempts to turn my bullshit detector off for the duration I got lost somewhere around Chapel Perilous (between Leary's fourth and fifth circuit). It was about then that Alli stopped making good sense and instead started talking in intricately linked metaphors. The trouble is that I don't know what to tell you about this problem. Ten years ago, I would have called the whole book crap. Ten years from now I might find it all obvious. For the moment, there is a level where either I cannot follow, or where the author ceases to lead — take your pick.

Either way, there's a lot of valuable stuff here, along with a delightful afterword that pricks a few holes in the New Age balloons. The book could use an index to be more useful in emergency situations, but maybe it's better without, as it forces you to do more browsing, and constantly be confronted with whether or not you've got your act together. In sum, there's something here for everyone who chooses to be different from the herd and try to figure out what the heck is going on, inside and out. (242 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Bob Black and Adam Parfrey (eds.), **RANTS AND INCENDIARY TRACTS** ($9.95 from Amok Press, PO Box 51, Cooper Station, NY 10276): An anthology, co-published by Amok and Loompanics, of texts that would perhaps be better forgotten. At least, most people with any sense of morals would prefer that they be forgotten, since what's collected here is some of the most amoral (not to mention spiteful) invective ever produced in the defense of unpopular ideas.

With this slant, it's undoubtedly going to be a popular book. The 56 rants collected here are arranged in chronological order from John Knox's "The Monstrous Regiment of Women" (1558) through Hakim Bey's "Intellectual S&M is the Fascism of the 80's" (1988). Along the way, you'll meet such well-known ravers as the Marquis de Sade, Ezra Pound, Ayatollah Khomeini, Timothy Leary and Wilhelm Reich (though others are left out — why no Manson or Gacy, for example?). There's also the current crop of modern marginal ranters, starting with Black himself (though I question the choice to include "The Correct Line" instead of the more outrageous "Feminism as Fascism" — surely Bob doesn't want to protect his image?), Kerry Thornley, Gerry Reith, Ed Lawrence, and John Crawford. But fear not, there's also a large proportion of folks you probably haven't read before: Abiezer Coppe, Karl Heinzen, Austin Osman Spare and Thibaut D'Amiens, for example, were new to me, despite me relatively large exposure to this sort of literature.

angel
TECH
ANTERO ALLI

This book is a device for inciting interaction between right (Angel) and left (Tech) hemispheres of the brain. ANGEL TECH is also an Invisible Institute offering courses in: KARMA MECHANICS, RAPTURE, NEURO-TAROT, CHAPEL PERILOUS, RITUAL PRACTICE, ASTROLOGIK, BRAIN PLEASURE, SYNCHRONICITY, for your direct neural engagement! Signed copies, send $11. to Antero Alli: BOX 45758, Seattle WA 98145

It's hard to pick out themes here, since rants tend to be pretty personal things. Still, opposition to an overly organized society is clearly one wellspring of ranting (of course, there are inceptions, including Khomeini, Meir Kahane, and Meese-ite Park Dietz), while the desire to simply go off on one's own and do it right is another. Certainly, you can't maintain any composure about the reasonableness of human beings after wading through the selections in this book.

Ultimately, though, **RANTS** proves to be more of a freak show than anything else. Black and Parfrey manage to introduce the selections well, and give us some idea of their author's history, but they construct no overall theory of ranting. Nor do they distinguish between those folks they feel were on to something (and certainly the editors' personal sources of inspiration have made the book) and those who are just kooks, or dangerous madmen. So the book doesn't draw together and leave anything behind other than a sour taste and perhaps a few new ideas. Extremism in the defense of liberty may be no vice, but perhaps extremism in the pursuit of titillation is. (219 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Jack Black, **YOU CAN'T WIN** ($9.95 from Amok Press, PO Box 51, Cooper Station, NY 10276): This is the autobiography of Jack Black, who turned drifter and small-time burglar at a tender age in the late 19th century. First published in 1926, this is a look back over decades of crime and hardship from the perspective of one who has finally gone straight, but without major regrets.

Black's was a world of honor among theives, of long, cold, hungry hours in boxcars bound for somewhere else, of heists that failed and others that succeeded. Along the way he introduces us to some "Johnsons" (men and women who rode the rails and looked out for one another) and gives us the essentials of their own code of ethics. The story isn't prettied up. Instead there are matter-of-fact accounts of everything from opium addiction to harsh prison terms.

All in all, **YOU CAN'T WIN** is an engaging and romantic book, though it was not written as a romance. But from our perspective, 75 years after Black went straight, it presents what in many respects was a better way of life than that of the archetypical Yuppie. Black endured hardships, but he had (mostly) freedom and friends — and an environment that allowed him to choose this avenue in a way no longer open to us. (406 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Lawrence Block, **SPIDER, SPIN ME A WEB** ($16.95 & $2.50 p&h from Writer's Digest Books, 1507 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207): This is a collection, with minor changes, of Block's monthly columns from **WRITER'S DIGEST**. I knew, when I began reading it, that Block wrote fiction well — I have had the pleasure of reviewing some of his work for **DROOD**, and enjoyed it greatly. But would this transfer to writing well *about* fiction? Of that I was less sure.

I needn't have worried. The true test of a "how-to" book about writing is whether it makes you want to write, whether it activates the itch that lurks within the prospective writer. The main problem with writing this review is that Block does this rather too well; I had to constantly restrain myself from plunging yet again into my unfinished novel, so that I could finish reading the work at hand.

It is a thoroughly mixed bag, and a delightful one. Block covers everything from the problems (and possible benefits) of procrastination, to the realities of the slush pile, to such nuts and bolts topics as characterization. It's not a particularly comprehensive and logical survey of the field — rather, it's whatever he felt like writing each month for the past several years. But that's OK too, as it keeps the writing fresh and friendly.

The bottom line, I suspect, is that no one can teach you how to write. An established writer like Block can give a lot of helpful hints from their own experience. But at best a book like this will be a catalyst, galvanizing the stalled proto-writer into action. Measured by that yardstick, this is an excellent book as well as an entertaining one. (243 pp. hc)

★★★★★

Bruce Boston, **SKIN TRADES** ($3.50 from Chris Drumm, PO Box 445, Polk City, IA 50226): The 31st in the Drumm Booklets series, and as good as the others I've seen. Boston writes very short stories — there are ten of them here — with (for the most part) unexpected twists at the ends in a sort of O'Henry fashion. He wanders a bit in genres, staying within the fantastic literature arena but touching base here with horror, there with fantasy, and then again with pure science fiction.

Among the stories here, I think my favorite is "Another House, Another Home", about a man with an odd power bequeathed to him. You'd think this power would give happiness, but in fact it only gives striving — it's difficult to say more without ruining the impact. Also good is "One-Trick Dog", in which a patient man is pushed a bit too far by a brash stranger. Robots run through a lot of these pieces, but they're not the proto-Humans of Asimov; rather they are less developed beings, servants, animals, and so on.

All in all, Boston has a touch that makes this well worth reading. (M-62t)

★★★★★

Alan Cantwell, Jr., M.D., **AIDS AND THE DOCTORS OF DEATH** ($20 from C&C Marketing, 12336 Penn St., Whittier, CA 90602): This book is basically an exploration and amplification of physician Robert Strecker's theories on the origins of AIDS [see the VIDEO section of this FF]. Cantwell, a dermatologist and microbiologist, started looking into the problems of AIDS seriously after meeting Strecker, and although he doesn't agree completely with the latter doctor, he is substantially convinced that it's a man-made retrovirus, introduced via vaccination.

This is a tough book to evaluate. From the standpoint of the medical establishment, Cantwell is a kook, and he admits this right up front, detailing his own research on cancer germs. Now, the accepted view is that there is no such thing, so this makes his intellectual worth immediately suspect. On the other hand, he cites 7 papers he's had published on this topic in refereed medical journals — a point in favor of his intellectual integrity and astuteness.

So it might seem that Cantwell is a researcher who's not afriad to make up his own mind when presented with the evidence, and in this light we should pay attention to his findings. But why then is there such a sensational tone to much of this book? Even granted that it's a popularization of some tough research, there's an awful lot of sentences set in all capital letters, and a lot of sly and leading questions that are never answered, but left around to provoke fear. Dealing emotionally with such a subject as AIDS, even when it is emotional itself, is not the hallmark of the scientist concerned for truth. Finally, I have some doubts about the science here: recombination need not imply conscious direction in the lab, and the supposedly damning WHO documents "predicting" and "demanding" the AIDS virus seem open to alternate interpretations (I'd like to see the context for the one-paragraph quotes Strecker and Cantwell rely on before deciding).

But in the end, the book's theory — that AIDS is a recombinant animal virus or two, probably accidentally introduced into viral cultures in the lab and then transferred (we don't know how or by who) to sera used in vaccines — holds up at least as well as the official theories on origin in the African green monkey. And by relying on infection by human agents, one neatly sidesteps the problems of transmissibility and of explaining how this was the first disease to target narrow groups like homosexuals and Haitians before breaking out into the general populace. And Cantwell does give us his sources, in case we want to follow up. So I'd say this is worth reading, but not necessarily worth believing. (238 pp. hc)

★★★★★

Cynthia Connolly, Leslie Clague, Sharon Cheslow & Lydia Ely (eds.), **BANNED IN DC** ($12 from Sun Dog Propaganda, PO Box 9743, Washington, DC 20016): The subtitle here pretty much says it all: **Photos and Anecdotes from the DC Punk Underground (79-85).** Mostly what stand out for me are the photos, six or seven hundred of them, impeccably reproduced on nice slick paper. Most of them are from shows, though a large number are band publicity shots — or candid shots, as the case may be. Scattered amongst these are reproductions of flyers and little bits and pieces of memories from the folks who were around the DC scene when things started happening.

Don't get the wrong impression — this is not a history, though it will make good primary source material if anyone ever does do a history of DC punk. It's more like a scrapbook, full of Ian MacKaye and Bad Brains and GI and Iron Cross and Marginal Man and dozens of other bands. You do get a sense of growth reading through this, of something small and special gradually growing up and alienating a few of the people who started the scene. I would have liked more on the record labels and zines (surely *someone* was publishing before **WDC PERIOD** came out?), but that's just because I'm an archivist, and the shots of the Dischord Records office will satisfy most anyone else. This is a book that could have been done in almost any large city — but I think this is the first place that it has been done, and it came out real well. (177 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Paul Dilsaver, **NURTZ! NURTZ!** ($9 from Ghost Rocks Press, 209 Park St., Laramie, WY 82070): A dark comedy with somewhat Kafkaesque overtones — only in this case it is the reader rather than the protagonist who is trapped in a total institution which demands performance according to never-stated rules. Set in a top-secret mental hospital in an abandoned missile silo somewhere out West, **NURTZ! NURTZ!** is structured around the visit of a State Inspector — *you* — to this mysterious place.

Your guide-cum-opponent is Nathan Nurse, R.N., the Director of the facility, He takes you the rounds of the patients and staff (sometimes the line between these groups is blurred or nonexistent) and introduces them at length. Their histories are some of Dilsaver's best writing, shots of outre madness which burst beyond the bounds of rationality. In doing so, they stretch the Inspector's faith in reality, demanding that it accept the existence of exhibitionistic necrophiles, born-again murderers, and prostitutes literally entangled with the demon weed. The fragility of the universe is most apparent when these rocks of improbability threaten to shatter it.

Overall, this is a fascinating and disturbing work which may well leave the unsuspecting or unprepared reader a bit mad himself. A good book provides a mirror of the world. In this case, it's a funhouse mirror, cloudy and distorted, but a mirror nonetheless. (206 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

H.L. Drake, **THE NULL-A WORLDS OF A.E. VAN VOGT** ($2.25 from Chris Drumm, Books, PO Box 445, Polk City, IA 50226): #32 in the Drumm Booklet series, this is made up mainly of interviews which the author had with van Vogt over a period of about a decade, together with some critical interpretative material. The primary focus is on the things which lay behind the science fiction writing: a method for dealin with dreams, dianetics, and of course General Semantics. Since Drake is intensely interested in General Semantics himself, he manages to get across a sense of fascination and near-awe at van Vogt for using the theory. For the average reader, though, this may turn out to be just a character study of a somewhat demented writer. It's well-done but in the end rather slight. (M-30r)

★★★★★

J.G. Eccarius, **THE LAST DAYS OF CHRIST THE VAMPIRE** ($5.95 from III Publishing, PO Box 8362, San Diego, CA 92102): This looked from the outside like a real clunker. But then I got to the inverted eye in the triangle, and the endorsement from Robert Anton Wilson, and pretty soon I was kneedeep in a whirlwind tale of revolution, led by atheist anarchists. Just to set the mood, here's a bit of their propaganda:

> VAMPIRE ALERT
>
> Warning! This area is known to be infested with vampires.
>
> They may look human, but can be recognized by these signs:
>
> (1) Desire to control other people's lives.
>
> (2) Blindly follow the orders and suggestions of their vampire masters.
>
> (3) Inability to think for themselves.
>
> Note: it is not true that vampires are hurt by sunlight or are afraid of crosses. Also, they live off people's spirit, not blood.
>
> This area is particularly heavily infested by followers of Christ the Vampire, a magician born in Judea approximately 2000 years ago. The Roman government attempted to execute him by crucifixion, but he rose from the dead and began preying on people. Victims of Christ the Vampire have visitations from him or his closest followers including Mary, Queen of Vampires, and follow their instructions without thinking. They are known to be dangerous and will purposefully try to make new vampires, even their own children.
>
> Dr. Van Helsing
> J.G. Eccarius
> Members, Committee for Public Safety

With this basic theme at the root, the book romps through 2000 years of history and conspiracy, casting snide looks at everyone from Simon Magus to Aleister Crowley to Alexander Hamilton to the Revolutionary

Communist Policy. Eccarius, whoever (or whatever?) he might be, has a fine eye for today's self-proclaimed revolutionaries, and they don't come off much better than the forces they're fighting against.

In the end, it's an inspiring novel, at least to those of us fed up with the system. It wouldn't surprise me a bit to see posters from the Committee for Public Safety appearing in anarchist propaganda this summer. (180 pp. pb)

★★★★★

Marc Eric Ely-Chaitlin, **RON TOBIN: THE MAN BEHIND THE THOUGHT** ($2 from PO Box 7075, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677): Documentation, in the form of reprinted correspondence, of the recent squabble between Ron Tobin, publisher of **THE THOUGHT**, and Marc Eric, publisher of **THE TERRITORIAL HERALD**. As such, it's of interest only to the participants and their close contacts, if it is in fact of interest to anyone at all. Mostly, this seems to be an attempt by Marc to blow up a minor feud into some great struggle in which All of Libertarianism Must Take Sides. (D-32r)

★★★★★

Marc Eric Ely-Chaitlin, **THE ROYALIST STANDARD** ($3 from PO Box 7075, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677): A somewhat abstract and philosophical discourse on the basis of Ely-Chaitlin's system of household monarchies, which he sees as a libertarian advance. The basic idea seems to be that we can recognize ourselves as sovereign individuals and that in so doing we become rulers — monarchs — of our own tribes (= families). The "Royalist Standard" of the title refers to a way of using this idea to set an absolute standard of virtue and so save us from all the distresses of mass society.

What can I say about this book? It's an interesting polemic, and at times a stirring one. Yet Ely-Chaitlin is at his best when attacking modern society, not when proposing his own solution. Even for those who believe in individual autonomy and sovereignty, the idea of becoming "royalty" is a very marginal position, almost universally seen as absurd. The hermetic system of this book is such that those of us who adhere to this notion are dismissed as still living in the "Pale of Fear" created by mass society — but frankly, I think I prefer this to the Pale of Fantasy the author seems to be creating. His heart is in the right place, but this does not justify his ideas. (HL-28r)

★★★★★

Ed and Roon Frost, **MOUNTAIN GUIDE: THE WHITE MOUNTAINS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AND MAINE** ($11.95 from Independent Publishers Group, 814 N. Franklin St., Chicago, IL 60610): Don't let that address fool you; this was published by Glove Compartment Books right here in the northeast. And indeed it's sized perfectly to fit in a glove compartment, a travel companion for those of us too timid to need any of the Lonely Planet guidebooks.

This is a multi-use book, with something for almost anyone headed away to the mountains from our region's teeming cities. There's advice for bikers, hikers, fishermen, families with or without small kids, skiers, shopper, eaters and probably a few folks I missed. Plenty of maps get you into the area, with detailed ones where needed — for cross-country or downhill ski trails, for example. The Frosts write in a rather anecdotal style, with boxes full of historical tidbits, but that need not deter the driver in a hurry, for the really important parts (like "Don't go here without 32 miles worth of gas") are italicized. To make the reference even more user-friendly, there are little icons in the margins marking points of particular interest, be they restaurants, caves, or fishing holes. Finally, the whole is fully indexed.

All in all, this looks to be an excellent investment for anyone likely to vacation in the interior of Maine or New Hampshire. (195 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

God & Michael Mathiesen, **THE NEW AMERICAN BIBLE** ($19.95 [$21.24 in California] from Millenium Press, PO Box 7885, Santa Cruz, CA 95061): God is turning up more and more often these days. This time he spent 100 days dictating new ideas through Mathiesen's personal computer, outlining the steps we need to take to save the human race from destruction before the year 2000.

This is not the traditional God of the Judeo-Christian Bible. In fact, by the end of the book He's being referred to as UM, for Universal Mind. Along the way we learn a lot about his dislikes: the Pope, organized religion, Contragate, the CIA, lawyers, and OPEC. But all of these will be wiped out by the solution: world government via direct democracy and televoting by all citizens on important issues. God comes across as something like a libertarian when He proposes these ideas to eliminate the governments which are screwing everything up.

Unfortunately, I'm not impressed with His savvy in this book. To take just a few examples: it's ludicrous to think that solar power can replace nuclear power within ten years, no matter how gung-ho we are about it. His physics is also pretty shaky; in particular his thoughts about time are silly and incomprehensible. Solar panel manufacture is not a candidate for a third-world cottage industry, as producing amorphous silicon is rather beyond the means of most cottages. Finally (for this list, not for the book), His history of the industrial revolution completely ignores the important strides made by proto-industry before the rise of centralized factories.

Anyhow, despite all the usual cop-outs ("Trust me" being the primary one) and threats (we scoffers are going to get it in the end), I'm not impressed. God claims this book needs to get into the hands of the majority of people on the planet within five years to turn things around. If that's the case, give up now, because there's no way this nonsense will catch on. (438pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Four from Verlag Golem (PO Box 3414, Providence, RI 02906): From the home of the **MOORISH SCIENCE MONITOR** come these curious chapbooks, all worth having if you're as strange as I am:

BUGS ($1): By Twillo Carp, this is part of the "Child's Garden of Horrid Lies" series. Carp explains carefully all manner of falsehoods about bugs, many calculated to make small children rather uneasy. In the tradition of Shel Silverstein, though without quite so much poetry. (D-12t)

HYGEINE FOR BOYS, by Coach Hank Miller/**HYGEINE FOR GIRLS**, by Ardythe Lockwood, R.N. ($1.50): Your typical set of manuals for the growing and changing teenager, bound together Ace Double style. These are not so much misinformative (though they're that as well) as uninformative, being written in a wide parody of that breezy, generalised, euphemistic style that makes sitting through health classes with your gym teacher so painful. (D-20t)

TALES OUT OF SCHOOL: THE CHRONICLES OF GUMP AND WHEEZER'S HOME FOR FOUND BOYS ($1.50): After mentioning the words "homosexual pedophilia", perhaps the less said about this one, the better. An updated homily about a quaint foundling's home, it comes with a free pamphlet explaining the Home's services, should one be so inclined. (D-16t)

THE SUPERSOUL HONKING BLUES LOOSELEAF BIBLE, by Debbie Schwartz-Doppelganger ($2): A work of Magical Judaism, a mystical group of sects which believe in utter religious diversity, a sense of humor, and a modern interpretation of the scriptures. This first volume covers the period from the Creation to the death of Joseph. Perhaps this excerpt will give you the flavor of the work:

"Pointing to his penis, Adam claimed to have 51%, a controlling interest, in the entire stock of humanity. At this Eve laughed.

"Furious now, as a 'show of force', Adam invented the plough and gouged the Garden into a furrowed field. Work entered the world. Paradise turned into a farm and so was lost. To explain the Fall, Adam circulated the story that Woman had caused it by stealing from his orchard. This was the first slander and the beginning of History." (D-16t)

★★★★★

Kyle Griffith, **WAR IN HEAVEN** ($15 from S/R Press, PO Box 60327, Palo Alto, CA 94306-0327): This is not a review that I am very happy to write. On the one hand this book, unlike most "channelled" material, is one of the most lucid, straightforward, well-written books I have ever had the pleasure of reading. Whoever ultimately can take credit for this book, the author or his "spirit guides", he, she, it, or they have produced a very well written and *interesting* work on the subjects of the afterlife, reincarnation, spirits in general and malignant ones in particular, and many other aspects of spiritualism and the occult. This is one of the rare works in the genre which manage to combine readability, avoidance of more than an absolutely necessary minimum of neologisms, and absence of Cook's Tours through astral-wool filled cloud-cuckooland for which the average work in this area is notorious. In addition, it has a decent bibliography and useful index.

But unfortunately, I cannot be nearly as kind about most of the teachings it contains, which Griffith's "spirit guides", who call themselves the "Invisible College" have dictated. This is an extremely disturbing work, all the more so for the excellence of craft, a unique combination of highly interesting new ideas, odd misuses of standard occult concepts and terminology, paranoia-steeped scenarios reminiscent of World War II indoctrination posters and films, and elegantly and subtly crafted disinformation.

The basic thesis of this book is that the Inner Planes are populated by two sorts of spirits: the "Theocracy" who have held the living world in thrall for countless ages by means of various manipulations disguised as religion, and their opponents, the "Invisible College", who have banded together to fight the theocracy, and to that end to what they can to influence the living and the get the latter, whenever possible, to reject religion. The Theocracy are souls who refuse to reincarnate; the Invisible College, supposedly on our side, is almost entirely composed of alien spirits who have arrived at our planet in the last 700 years.

Channeling is a form of spiritualism that is itself one of the many terms of evocation. If Griffith used any basic precautions in this evocation (either working with a Ceremonial Magickian or in the name of some Higher Power) it certainly isn't apparent from the text of this book. And this is a great part of what bothers me: How can Griffith be sure that the Invisible College, the spirits which supposedly dictated this book to him, are what they claim to be, are telling the truth, and have honorable, honest, and benign intentions?

The Invisible College seems to have taken to its collective heart Barnum's Great Dictum, "There's one born every minute." Very little of the psychology, biology, sociology, cosmology, or other concepts and theories presented here of any worth wasn't already widely available to the general public, in libraries and bookstores; using it adds versimilitude, but doesn't necessarily prove verity. If this book were testimony in a court of law, it could not stand on its own merits, and if it were a matter of scientific inquiry it would be worthless. It does not give us a basis for testing its merits or lack of them, but only insistes that we take it on faith — not explicitly, but by the fact that none few or none of the claims here are falsifiable, hence not verifiable. They are as unprovable (and undisprovable) as a Fundamentalist Christian's belief.

On top of this, the Invisible College claim an awful lot for their "subconscious telepathic influence" (their words) by which they supposedly feed us the data and initiating stimuli that enable us, so directed, to create our various cultures and technologies. This implies, *a la* von Danieken and his "Space Gods", that we poor, bestial, mortal human beings are just too damned stupid to wipe our own butts unaided, and have required the "benign" supervision and tutelage of omniscient aliens to enable us to accomplish everything from the invention of fire and the wheel to the creation of the nuclear bomb and Disneyland. The Invisible College takes credit for our creation of our current high-tech, high-waste society, and claim that we in the West are far better off than if we did not live in such a society. But this "affluence" is killing our planet and killing us all — thanks a *bunch*, Invisible College! Yet they turn around later and, though mentioning the possibility of the collapse of the biosphere, blame it on causes which have little to do with ou culture, so they can avoid the blame! This mystification is ominous, an elegantly done variety of doubletalk.

In fact, all of the elegance is in the end distressing. This book is so well-written, clear, coherent and intelligent, whether or not its claims are true, that it *has* to be the product of *someone's* conscious creation, whether Griffith's, his "spirit guides", or someone else's. Whose is it, then? The purported authors, a pack of astral propagandizers for whom Griffith has ghost-written (excuse me) this book? Griffith himself? The CIA? Renegade New Agers? Undercover Fundamentalists, trying to make the New Age and occult movements look bad? Some even more bizarre source? It would be interesting to learn which was the case.

All my misgivings about Griffith's "Invisible College" are summed up by their claim, on page 104, that they are responsible for turning people into "'good average citizens' as that term is defined in the United States today." Right there, that condemns them as the foulest fiends from the nethermost part of the pit! The rampant paranoia, the consistent and highly misleading abuse of terminology, the bald ignorance of physical, biological and anthropological science, the taking of credit for things for which honest credit is due very much elsewhere, all mark this book as a true treasure-trove of endarkenment.

On the good side, I can say that this book makes *great* science fiction, of the sort that fell by the wayside in the 1940s, when John W. Campbell and his collegaues, not to mention readers, made scientific and scholarly accuracy a necessary condition for the acceptance of the science fiction of the day. Still, this book makes a swell metaphor for something — I wonder what?

And just how does the Invisible College explain "Bob", hmmm?

(guest review by Yael Dragwyla, condensed from a *much* longer manuscript critique [99 pages!] which goes into detail on such matters as the magickal significance of channelling, the abuse of temrinology referred to above, some Biblical exegesis, findings from the natural sciences, the Invisible College's attitude towards Crowley, and much more, together with references. You can get a copy of the full review for $5 from PO Box 45792, Seattle, WA 98145-0792. If you're at all interested in sweeping explanations of the world, I'd suggest you order both Griffith's book *and* the fuller review.)

★★★★★

Christopher S. Hyatt & Antero Alli, **A MODERN SHAMAN'S GUIDE TO A PREGNANT UNIVERSE** ($11 from PO Box 45758, Seattle, WA 98145-0758): A picture book (or rather, a series of bound pages with words and pictures: the back cover proclaims "This Is Not A Book") that is another piece in the puzzle of the Alli-Leary-Wilson-etal worldview. Apparently this one is designed to subtly reprogram the reader in the manner of some of Crowley's more condensed writings. The basic idea is that a new world is waiting to be born, that we're all its midwives, and we'd better get down to work — though not much of this is actually spelled out.

Rather, Hyatt and Alli opt to combine computer graphics and public-domain art with oracular pronouncements and only a few scattered hints about which practices to follow. Chief among these latter is a method for treating words as drugs in order to quickly, painlessly and consciously enter new states of awareness. Whether it works or not, this is must reading for **ILLUMINATUS!** fans and their ilk. (162pp. pb)

★★★★★

Kevin Kelly (ed.), **SIGNAL: COMMUNICATION TOOLS FOR THE INFORMATION AGE** ($15 [plus tax in California] from Whole Earth Catalog, 27 Gate 5 Road, Sausalito, CA 94965): In the familiar lush big-page format with the photos of a blue-white earth on the covers, this is the latest Whole Earth Catalog. It's *not* a successor to **THE ESSENTIAL WHOLE EARTH CATALOG** (that role remains to be filled by the upcoming **ELECTRONIC WHOLE EARTH CATALOG**), but another book in the same spirit. This one concerns information, tools for accessing it, and how to handle it.

We're long past the point where anyone can comprehend or sort out the mass of information we're sharing the world with, or make use of all of it. We can't even find and make use of the parts we really need. But with this book, and a little perseverance, we can certainly get started. The goal is to be human, anyhow, rather than to be perfect — and to have fun, too, which is pretty much guaranteed if this is your source. The **SIGNAL** staff clearly had fun, and it's infectious.

The subject matter here is widely defined: "all possible tools having information at one end and a grasp at the other." That includes books on learning how to read, advice on buying computers, strange journals and magazines (even a page on zines, featuring **FACTSHEET FIVE** and a few others), rubber stamps, graphic design, sound landscapes, copyright, cognitive enhancers...the list is extensive, with two or three hundred major topics. These range from underground cassette culture (rendered by Robin James) up to professional sound libraries, from zines to finding out of print books, from software to video and back. As with any Whole Earth production, browsing will find things you didn't even know you needed, and of course the reviews are witty, informative, and the right length. A few feature articles, on things like computer viruses, desktop publishing, the WELL (Whole Earth's own computer BBS) and apas, break up the pace.

SIGNAL isn't perfect, of course. It couldn't be, as the folks putting it out are generalists rather than specialists. I can find omissions in the things I really know about, either from **FACTSHEET FIVE** or from graduate school. Rudi Rubberoid isn't in the rubber stamp section, and John Held isn't mentioned under mail art. On the more academic side of things, although they do get into oral history and citation indexing (both tools I've had to use in my research), they don't pick the sources I would have. And there are even whole topics (like architectural design — check out Christopher Hill's **A PATTERN LANGUAGE**) missing. But you can probably get to these things in only a few jumps starting with what they do tell you. And if there's something you know about that should be here — heck, they're paying for info for the next edition. Meanwhile, this edition is pretty damned good. If you spend a lot of your life dealing with things of the mind (as I do) you need this book, whether you know it or not. (227 pp. tpb)

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★★★★★

Arthur Knight, **THE GOLDEN LAND** ($5.95 from PO Box 439, California, PA 15419): I am curiously ambivalent about this book. On the one hand it seems almost the height of arrogance for Knight to have published it at all, for it is not (and does not pretend to be) anything more than disjointed episodes from a trip back to his native California, concentrating on people and memories. There is no plot, nearly no morals, and perhaps no reason for it to exist.

But on the other hand, Knight can *write*. And the people he writes about are fascinating in their own right: many of them are from a previous era in the small press scene, the Beats and their intellectual descendents (though of course the small press is a seamless web; alert **FF** readers will recognize names like Lily Pond and Len Fulton here), people who publish small magazines and only end up remembered in small books. Speaking as an native turned outsider, he also manages to put his finger on some things that are wrong, with our society in general and its allegedly most advanced (or at least most frantic) sector on the West Coast.

So it's a toss-up. If you like people and find them fascinating, you'll probably like this book — unless you're a feminist, a type of person for which Knight seems to feel nothing more than disdain. Perhaps we may forgive him this for his age; many people born before television (or since, for that matter) are much worse on that score. But if you're looking for a story rather than observations, look elsewhere. (180 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Dr. Jeffrey Lant, **CASH COPY** ($27.95 from JLA Publications, 50 Follen St. #507, Cambridge, MA 02138 — phone 617-547-6372): Probably the best way to tell you about this book is to quote a bit from the cover letter that came with my review copy:

> Over 98% of marketing communications fail to achieve their purpose...getting a prospect to buy...or a customer to buy again. They're just thrown away.
>
> The cost of this waste is astronomical...mounting up to billions and billions of dollars each year.
>
> Now this foolishness can stop...because now there's **CASH COPY: How To Offer Your Products And Services So Your Prospects Buy Them...NOW!!!** the ninth and newest money-making title by internationally-syndicated columnist and marketing specialist Dr. Jeffrey Lant.
>
> *CASH COPY is packed with techniques that get prospects to respond...fast!*

In other words, this book will teach you to write letters (brochures, annual reports, direct mail cards, whatever) that drip with power words and typographical devices like the above chunk. It would be easy to be cynical about this, since we all hate junk mail, and this is very junky writing. But, as Lant points out, those of us selling things also have a product that can help people, if only we can get them to listen to us. Well, this book has ways of making people listen.

The problem is that I'd rather invite people to listen than make them listen. So while I do see some ideas here I might use, I'll want to tone them down first. For me, marketing is not solely directed at making money — an attitude for which Lant appears to have very little time or respect. So be it. For what he's doing, he does do a very good job, and if you want to do the same, this book will probably not only save you money, but help you make a whole heap more. And that's just what it's for.

If you're feeling iffy about this but still want to follow up, drop them a line asking to be put on the mailing list for the **SURE-FIRE BUSINESS SUCCESS CATALOG**, a quarterly publication of 120+ sources for more marketing information. (480 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Bradley Lastname, **MALCOLM AND MADAME X** ($3.95 from The Press of the Third Mind, 65 East Scott, Chicago, IL 60610): A curious tale of Siamese twins joined at the appendix, who travel the world together, ultimately ending up in Barnum & Bailey's before a fatal duel ends their connection. Along the way there's the evolution of Ubangis, the question of whether two people can get by with one driver's license, infiltrating mosques and the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle. Lastname does not seem to have bothered to put any morals here, but it's fun to follow the twists and turns of this story. (D-60t)

★★★★★

Gary Lovisi, **GARGOYLE** ($5 from Gryphon Publications, PO Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228-0209): A tale of supernatural horror and science fiction rolled into one. Unfortunately...well, there is a story called **THE EYE OF ARGON** which circulates among science-fiction fans in manuscript form. An occasional game is to see who can read from its purple prose, misused words and inappropriate imagery for the longest time without cracking up. **GARGOYLE** is a bit low on foolish similes, but in other respects, it could give **ARGON** a run for its money. This is, quite simply, an amazingly poorly-written work, filled with big words that are spelled and used wrong in an effort to give it a particular style. The results stink. (D-55)

★★★★★

Gary Lovisi, **THE SAGA OF FILSTER STEIN** ($4 from Gryphon Publications, PO Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228-0209): Well, this is supposed to be science fiction satire, but I found it almost completely unreadable, despite its bold claims to be perfect bathroom literature. Filster Stein starts the book in the Imperial Navy, but is quickly transported to the surface of the planet Pudd, where he becomes ruler of a rather unlikely little country. Incidents flow into his life pretty much at random, dosed with a fair amount of mildly scatalogical humor and characters drawn from old pulps and then exaggerated. The fascination escapes me; it's not bad enough to be good. (D-45r)

★★★★★

Sergio Malini, **MAGICALLY MEETING WOMEN** ($5 from Xanth, Inc., PO Box 485, Pleasantville, NJ 08232): A variation on the old pick-up manauals. This one advises learning a few simple magic tricks and using them to get women interested in you, starting a conversation which can lead to bigger things. (Why these books are always written from the male point of view I don't know). Instructions for about 20 simple tricks are included. I already knew the secret of about three-quarters of them, but perhaps my childhood included more fascination with magic than yours. (D-28r)

★★★★★

Brian Martin, C.M. Ann Baker, Clyde Manwell and Cedric Pugh (eds.), **INTELLECTUAL SUPPRESSION** (Contact Brian Matin, Science and Technology Studies Department, University of Wollongong, PO Box 1144, Wollongong, NSW 2500, AUSTRALIA): An environmental researcher loses his job for saying bad things about the products of major corporations. A professor is denied tenure for being part of the wrong wing of an economics department. A researcher is falsely accused of various mopery and dopery for daring to speak out against a government pesticide program. These are but three of the cases of intellectual suppression documented, in rather great detail, in this book.

The focus here is on the suppression, mainly through bureaucratic and legalistic procedures, of intellectual dissent. If one believes that it is only by argument that we can arrive at something resembling the truth (this was John Stuart Mill's position and mine as well), then this is a rather serious matter. The editors of this book obviously feel so as well, and they present their subject in a neat arrangement. First comes a number of case histories — the meat of the book, and the most interesting to the casual reader — each with plenty of documentation. Then come a few meta-papers of analysis, notably Cheryl Hannah's "Who Listens When Women Speak? The Struggle for Feminist Critique in Universities". Finally, there are suggestions on responding to intellectual suppression, both through normal "channels" and more creatively.

This book is centered on academic life but obviously has wider implications. The pieces are well-chosen and for the most part the stories are well-told. Brian tells me that the book has been remaindered and the last copies are available free to those who are interested in the subject — it might be nice to send a few IRCs to help with postage, and restrain yourself to ordering if you really are concerned about these sorts of intellectual freedom issues. (304pp. tpb)

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★★★★★

Albert Most, **BUFO ALVARIUS: THE PSYCHEDELIC TOAD OF THE SONORAN DESERT** ($3 cash/MO from Venom Press, PO Box 2863, Denton, TX 76202): If you happen to be fortunate enough to live in an irrigated section of the Sonoran Desert (a big chunk of Southern Arizona, mostly), there's a psychedelic critter hopping around down by the irrigation ditch. This booklet will tell you how to idetify him, milk the venom without hurting the toad, and have a fifteen-minute psychedelic trip some day. Looks interesting, and according to the author, it isn't even illegal yet. (D-19)

★★★★★

Thomas E. Ratkov, **TOMMY: DIARY OF A PINBALL WIZARD** (36610 Farmbrooke #36, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043): A rather disjointed manuscript in search of a publisher. Tom is apparently deeply convinced that he has a pipeline to God which he has used a couple of times in astounding ways. Specifically, he was responsible for het death of Harry Chapin, Michael Jackson's hair catching fire, and the explosion of the Space Shuttle.

All this is tied together with stories of a road trip gone bad, orgies in a college dorm, and possession by the spirit of Jimmy Carter. Tom's gypsy heritage also comes in for examination. The style alternates between lucid and elusive in a rather manic fashion. Rock music assumed great significance, as indeed does everything else from dental work to GPAs.

I'm reminded of a couple of other works. On the one hand, Tom's experiences bear a striking resemblance to those reported by Mark Vonnegut in **THE EDEN EXPRESS**, a firsthand story of schizophrenia. On the other, some of the experiences he only hints at sound like roundabout confirmations of Kerry Thornley's theories about the way the world works. You pays your money and you takes your choice. (S-70)

★★★★★

Alan Samagalski, Robert Strauss, & Michael Buckley, **CHINA: A TRAVEL SURVIVAL KIT** (2nd Edition — $17.95 from Lonely Planet Publications, Embarcadero West, 112 Linden St., Oakland, CA 94607): Take 160 pages of firsthand knowledge on travel in China, full of tips to lower culture shock and ease one's enjoyment of the grassroots travel possibilities. Then add another 660 pages of incredibly detailed notes on the various provinces and cities in China now open to westerners, put it in a bombproof laminated cover, throw in a few photos — and you'd have something close to this book.

As with the other Lonely Planet Travel Survival Kits, the authors start off with the basics: History, economy, geography, climate and so on. Then they move into more practical tourist info, sorting out the facts on security agencies, visas (including notes on when it might be possible to bend the rules), customs, currency (two kinds, one only issued to foreigners), what to take, and so on. After a section on how to get there (from plush tours to bucket-shop tickets), they proceed to the provinces.

Arranged in a sensible geographic order, each section starts with a largescale map, with city maps as needed — 200 or so in total. Obviously these can't be as detailed as the traveler will want, so hints are given as to which of numerous official and unofficial maps for sale are worth getting, including which ones to snap up on sight due to rarity. There are nice touches to the ones in the book, though, notably the dual-language listing in the key, so those of us who can't read Chinese can find where we want to go in English and then point the equivalent out to locals.

After the geography comes the history (especially nice for those of us who are only armchair travelers), followed by the nitty gritty: where to go, what to see, how to get there, where to stay, and more. Thanks to LP's network of correspondents, much of this information is quite detailed, right down to room rates for hotels and which restaurants to avoid because of overcharging. The whole is aimed at the traveler who is reasonably resourceful and who doesn't want to spend the entire vacation on the tourist routes.

Frankly, you'd be silly to think about going any further than Hong Kong without buying this book. (820pp. pb)

★★★★★

Small Press Group of Britain, **SMALL PRESS YEARBOOK 1989** (£5.99 plus around £3 for postage from SPG of Britain, BM Bozo, London WC1N 3XX, ENGLAND): The fist shot at an annual compendium of useful information and contact addresses for small presses in Britain. The book starts out with an alphabetical section of useful information, aimed at the British press but perhaps useful to some colonials: where to get bar codes assigned to your book, ideas on advertising, good printers to use, definitions of things like "Artist's Book", and so on.

Following this there are descriptions and blurbs on about 200 small presses, rather like a reduced British version of the zine youa re reading now. They list products available from each one, concentrating on books but not neglecting periodical literature. For the Anglophile, this could be a treasure trove of obscure publications to buy. It's all topped off with an extensive index and pleas to send more information for a better edition next year. (192 pp. pb)

★★★★★

Stefan Szczelkun, **COLLABORATIONS** (£4.50 from Working Press, 85 St. Agnes Place, London SE11 4BB, ENGLAND): Szczelkun is a performance, postal and otherwise modern artist. In this book he explores the question of whether there is such a thing as a distinctively working class aesthetic. His argument seems to be that there is, although to be more precise this book does not present an argument as a series of propositions. Rather it presents a sketch of such an aesthetic through documentation of a series of exhibitions and performances.

Clearly the author/artist thinks there is such an aesthetic. It has several distinctive properties: a breaking down of the barriers between artist and audience, a rebellion against the commodification of art and artists, and an antagonistic attitude towards mass media are perhaps the most important. There is some resemblance, particularly in the "Bypass Control" and "Ruins of Glamour" installations, with the Situationist analysis of the society of the spectacle. But whereas the spectacle serves to keep the masses in line, glamour is more insidious, directly attacking their own sense of self-worth in an attempt to create an elite.

This is a lavish book, and a good avenue into the open, performance-based art milieu for the analytically-minded. Though there are many photos and drawings from the various exhibitions referred to, there is also explanatory text, in which Szczelkun attempts to justify, or at least demystify, his own art. Well worth a look. (112 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Karen Thompson and Julie Andrzejewski, **WHY CAN'T SHARON KOWALSKI COME HOME?** ($10.95 from Spinsters/Aunt Lute, PO Box 410867, San Francisco, CA 94141; better add about $3 for postage, or send for their free catalog): In November 1983, Sharon Kowalski was severely injured by a drunk driver. Her lover of four years, with whom she shared a house and a life, rushed to her bedside. Sharon survived, severely injured but still capable of communicating and participating in her own care. The lover participated long hours in Sharon's rehabilitation, reaching her in ways no one else could and motivating Sharon to recover. Yet despite this, Sharon's parents had themselves appointed guardians, and then convinced the courts of the state of Minnesota to bar Sharon's chosen companion from any further contact with the patient. Now Sharon is being held in a facility where she does not want to be, denied access to basic necessities (like an electric wheelchair and a computer to type her messages on), and prevented from seeing the single most important person in her life.

The reason the Kowalski parents have gotten away with this is very simple: Sharon Kowalski is gay, and her lifemate is Karen Thompson. In denying this relationship, the parents have denied their daughter's character and her life. This is, pure and simple, outrageous. Even more outrageous is the fact that the courts have confirmed this homophobia, even to the point of ignoring the wishes of the patient. Apparently, Karen has no rights, at least not in the state of Minnesota, to control her own life. One severe injury has removed from her even such basic Constitutional guarantees as the right to an attorney of her choice and the right to free association.

Speaking of outrages, this case has been going on for more than five years now. Have you read about it in the "alternative press"? Unless you read one of a handful of gay and lesbian newspapers, the answer is that you probably haven't. The supposedly progressive press has done a dismal job of covering this case, in fact (according to the Free Sharon Kowalski Committee) a worse job than the mainstream press. That's shameful. Let's get one thing straight: Sharon Kowalski's right to live with dignity and to make her own choices is not a gay rights issue. It's not even a handicapped rights issue. It's a human rights issue, because exactly the same thing could happen to any one of us, amle or female, gay or straight, who hasn't made clear on the proper legal forms in advance who they would like to be their guardian in case of accident. (Incidentally, the basic forms for doing this are provided as an appendix to this book).

This book tells the entire story from Karen's point of view, starting with the accident, through her attempts to work with the parents, and on into incredible miscarriages of justice. The story isn't over yet but that's even more reason to get involved now. By letting us all into her personal life (and by all appearances Karen Thompson is by preference a very private person), Karen has made an exceedingly brave and honest statement about the importance of this case. She deserves the respect and support of anyone who cares about justice being done. If you won't take my word for it, reading the book will convince you. On top of its importance it is a well-told and deeply moving story of struggle and hope.

I think this is the most important book I've reviewed in **FF** in a long time. I urge you to do three things: First, get a copy of this and read it, and urge others to get acquainted with the case as well. Second, send a donation to cover part of the crippling legal costs to: Karen Thompson Legal Fund, 2501 Stockinger Dr., St. Cloud, MN 56303. Third, get the latest informtion on the case and national organizing by contacting the National Committee to Free Sharon Kowalski, 1725 17th St. NW #515, Washington, DC 20009 (send them a few bucks too). Thanks. (261 pp. tpb)

I spoke with the folks from the National Committee just as this issue was going to press, and here's the latest news: Sharon underwent court-ordered competency testing in mid-September, and in December these results were discussed at a private hearing with all parties. Although Sharon's physical condition has deteriorated due to 3 1/2 years without proper therapy, her communication ability and vocabulary are unimpaired, and she's asked to see Karen and other friends. The doctors concluded that the nursing home has been detrimental to Sharon's health, that she would benefit from more visitors, and that she has been portrayed as more disabled than she really is. The judge then ordered Sharon to be removed to a facility in Duluth where she has done better in the past, and as of early January she is there. There is also a procedure in place for Sharon to request visitors, which her father can no longer block. However, *Donald Kowalski has been confirmed as the guardian, and the judge has ordered another hearing in sixty days to consider Sharon's future, so we;re not out of the woods yet. And of course, the legal bills continue to mount.*

★★★★★

Allen Thornton, **LAWS OF THE JUNGLE** (Mermaid Press, PO Box 183,Vermilion, OH 44089): Allen is an anarchist, but a most curious one. He's not particularly interested in the internecine arguments the rest of us anarchists have over morals or economic systems or direct action or any of that hogwash. Instead, he simply sets forth a few basic principles, in chunks ranging from aphorisms to a few paragraphs, and lets the results lie where they may. His anarchy is obvious, natural, organic; it represents a look at the world with the blinders of government removed. This makes it, of course, all the more radical. Here's a sample of his writing:

"Anarchy could create a state of constant warfare, if that's what the people want, and if that's what the people want, who are you to stand in their way? But if people desire to live in peace and security, they are forced to cooperate and compromise.

"You could, for instance, make a law against smoking. If you enforced it only on your own property, it would have the force of an implicit contract for those entering your property and no one would object. But if you tried to enforce your law on your neighbor's property, you could run into trouble.

"I think that most people would rather be secure in their properties and homes than grant you the right to search out smokers. They would probably find your antismoking law a threat to them. If you rushed around breaking into private residences, dousing smokers with fire hoses and hauling them off to your private prison, I believe that the population would regard you as a kidnapper and deal with you accordingly.

"But I can never know for sure what form society would take in the absence of government. That's the whole point of anarchy. It's not my anarchy or your anarchy; it's simply anarchy."

Current anarchists are liable to find the economics here or the lack of stirring calls to action infuriating. Self-proclaimed realists and committed exploiters of the people will find the book silly. The rest of us can enjoy Allen's writing and perhaps be moved to reflection, an all too rare commodity these days. (150pp. pb)

★★★★★

BOOK NOTES:

•Ⓐ Distribution (396 7th St. #2, Jersey City, NJ 07302) has a new catalog of anarchist and situationist books and pamphlets available for an SASE with 50¢ postage.

•A-Albionic Consulting and Research (PO Box 20273, Ferndale, MI 48220), publishers of **THE PROJECT**, have all manner of books on the conspiracies surrounding us for sale. Try an SASE for some of their latest announcements.

•If you're thinking of reading **THE ANARCHIST COOKBOOK**, you might send 25¢ & an SASE to Hydrotech, 10929 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland, OR 97720 for a copy of the review by William Powell which exposes some of the most dangerous errors in this work, which some folks think was written by a police provocateur.

•The Book Broker (PO Box 1283, Charlottesville, VA 22902) issues specialty catalogs featuring Children's Books, Decorative Trade Bindings, and Books About Virginia & the South. If these subjects interest you, drop a line to get on his mailing list.

•Books Are Everything (R.C. & Elwanda Holland, 302 Martin Dr,, Richmond, KY 40475) sent me their Auction List #46 of rare paperback originals. There are a few hundred books here, including rarities by Thompson & Willeford as well as plenty of sleazy looking covers attached to writes I've never heard of. $5 will get you on their list, but once you start participating they're free.

•A Common Reader (175 Tompkins Ave., Pleasantville, NY 10570) is a source for books you probably *should* read to be properly educated: A collection of riddles in Latin, H.L. Mencken's dictionary of quotations, the latest on scientific fraud, that sort of thing. Decent but not bargain prices.

•Jim Dapkus (Route 1, Box 247, Westfield, WI 53964) collects and trades and sells the works of F.E. Campbell, who wrote such classics as **WHIPPED WIFE, GIRL BEHIND BARS**, and **MOIRA IN JEOPARDY**. For a copy of his list, send your want list and an age statement.

•Delta Press (PO Box 1625, El Dorado, AR 71730) is into books on things like survival, killing people, making explosives at home, and converting your rifle to full-automatic fire. They also sell nasty signs to scare burglars away, very sharp letter openers (made of plastic so you can open your mail on airplanes), and pin-ups of busty young women in torn fatigues. Nice folks.

•The Dog Ear Press (19 Mason St., Brunswick, ME 04011): specializes in books by Mainers, ranging from Bern Porter's artists' books to children's books. SASE should get their brochure.

•Chris Drumm (PO Box 445, Polk City, IA 50226) sells new and used science fiction, as well as his own "Drumm Booklets" series featuring such authors as R.A. Lafferty, Carter Scholz, Richard Wilson and others. Ask politely to get on his catalog list.

•Emissary Publications (9205 SE Clackamas Rd. #1776, Clackamas, OR 97015) sells all sorts of right-wing conspiracy books, exposing those evil conspirators to the clear light of day. Send a buck or so for their extensive tabloid catalog.

•Al Fry's Incredible Inquiry catalog is back! Now at 9237 Craven, Morongo Valley, ca 92256, it offers dozens of books on secret powers, chelation therapy, UFOs, government snoopery, exotic weapons, and other marginal subjects. Send a buck for the latest 4-page tabloid catalog.

•GoodeAssociates (PO Box 210733, Nashville, TN 37221) is out with their **LIST #2** of erotica from the 50's through the 70's for sale. Prices run from about $2 to $70, with lots of classic paperbacks on the 24-page list. You can get a free copy if you mention **FACTSHEET FIVE** and include an age statement.

•The Harleian Miscellany Club (Rte. 10, Box 52-A, Florence, SC 29501) offers for sale a variety of books of interest to libertarians and conservatives. SASE for the most recent list.

•The rules for the 1990 Illinois State University/Fiction Collective fiction competition are available for an SASE from Fiction Collective Manuscript Control, Dept. of English, Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61761-6901. Don Webb's **UNCLE OVID'S EXERCISE BOOK** [see review in **FF28**] was a previous winner, so you can see they're open to strange and wonderful new stuff.

•Imported Publications, Inc. (320 W. Ohio St., Chicago, IL 60610-4175) sells English-language books published in the Soviet Union. They'll probably send you their 64-page catalog for the asking.

•John Knott, Jr. (1905 Amberstone Ct., Silver Spring, MD 20904) has a catalog out offering for sale SF, fantasy, and horror first editions and specialty press titles.

•Krause Publications (700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990) has a couple of new ones out for hobbyists of various stripes. The mammoth **STANDARD CATALOG OF BASEBALL CARDS**, featuring more than 120,000 collectible cards, is available for $24.95 plus $2.50 p&h, while the four-volume **STANDARD CATALOG OF UNITED STATES OBSOLETE BANK NOTES, 1782-1866** is list-priced at $195.

•KYFHOTech (PO Box 14603, Madison, WI 53714) sell lots of libertarian books, with an emphasis on getting away from the state and fighting back via technology. They also run "Dial-An-anarchist" at 608-244-3641.

•Left Bank Distribution (5241 University Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105) are a mail-order source of hard-to-find anarchist books and pamphlets.

•Liberty Tree (6600 Silacci Way, Gilroy, CA 95020) sells books, tapes, videos and collectibles "for Your Life, Liberty, and Prosperity". To underscore their free-market credo, their 24-page catalog is $3.

•The Lonely Planet catalog for Spring/Summer 1989 is out, listing all their titles for you folks who like to travel at a reasonable price to exotic places. Loads of good advice here — I'd say send about a buck to Embarcadeo West, 112 Linden St., Oakland, CA 94607.

•Loompanics Unlimited (PO Box 1197, Port Townsend, WA 98368) has brought out their 1988 Holiday Supplement to their catalog. This is nice if someone you know wants a copy of **SILENCING SENTRIES** or **THE BEST CATHOUSES IN NEVADA** for their birthday or something. Send $3 and ask for their main catalog if you want to be shocked and surprised by odd books of all sorts.

•The Mail Order Catalog (PO Box 180, Summertown, TN 38483) offers a selection of books on vegetarian cooking, alternative health, native Americans, gardening and so on, along with Nicaraguan Coffee, TVP, and tempeh starter. Try an SASE for their latest.

•Marcus Books (PO Box 327, Queensville, ONT L0G 1R0, CANADA) are the publishers of the Hilarion books. Hilarion is an entity channelled by Maurice Cooke and he has loads of wisdom to dispense for about eight bucks per hundred pages.

•Dave McClintock (PO Box 1949, Warren, OH 44482-1949) deals in used and collectible SF, fantasy, and other whatnot. A quarter will get you his most recent regular catalog. Lots of interesting rarities, autographed copies, manuscripts and other items of interest here, at what appear to me to be reasonable prices.

•Jeffrey Meyerson (8801 Shore Rd. #6A-East, Brooklyn, NY 11209) is still going strong with his **MYSTERY SALES LIST**. $1 will get you on the mailing list of monthly offerings, usually over 500 books at reasonable prices.

•William L. Moore Publications & Research (4219 W. Olive Ave. #247, Burbank, CA 91505) sells all manner of UFO-related material, including reprints of various government documents and analysis thereof.

•Phanes Press (PO Box 6114, Grand Rapids, MI 49516) bill themselves as "Philosophy•Spirituality•Metaphysics". Their own latest is a new translation of **THE EGYPTIAN BOOK OF HTE DEAD**; they also carry works from other esoteric publishers. They also stock journals in their core fields.

•New Society Publishers (PO Box 582, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0582) stock a variety of books on socially-conscious investing and related topics.

•**NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS ABOUT JOHN DILLINGER, GOLDIE HAWN, ROWAN & MARTIN'S LAUGH-IN, REICHSBANK GOLD STOLEN IN 1945 AS ALLIES ADVANCED AGAINST GERMANY** is the title of a collected work from X. Sharks DeSpot, available for the things described in its title from 2225 Montego Dr., Lansing, MI 48912.

•The Seven Towers Press (PO Box 35623, Edina, MN 55435) are specialists in religious speculation, political fantasies, alternative morality (i.e., latter day Nietzschians) and covenants and cabals. Write for a free booklist.

•Trident Books (PO Box 85811, Seattle, WA 98145-1811) has available a few curiousities like reproductions of the Enochian Keys and Aleister Crowley on cassette at decent prices. SASE for pricelist.

•The Ufo Book Club may be reached c/o Pat Marcattillo, 138 Redfern St., Trenton, NJ 08610). An SASE should bring their latest price list.

•Water Row Books (PO Box 438, Sudbury, MA 01776) is still the place to go for beatnik material, from new books to reprints to classic used copies. About a thousand items in their latest perfect-bound catalog, so maybe you should send a buck or so for a copy.

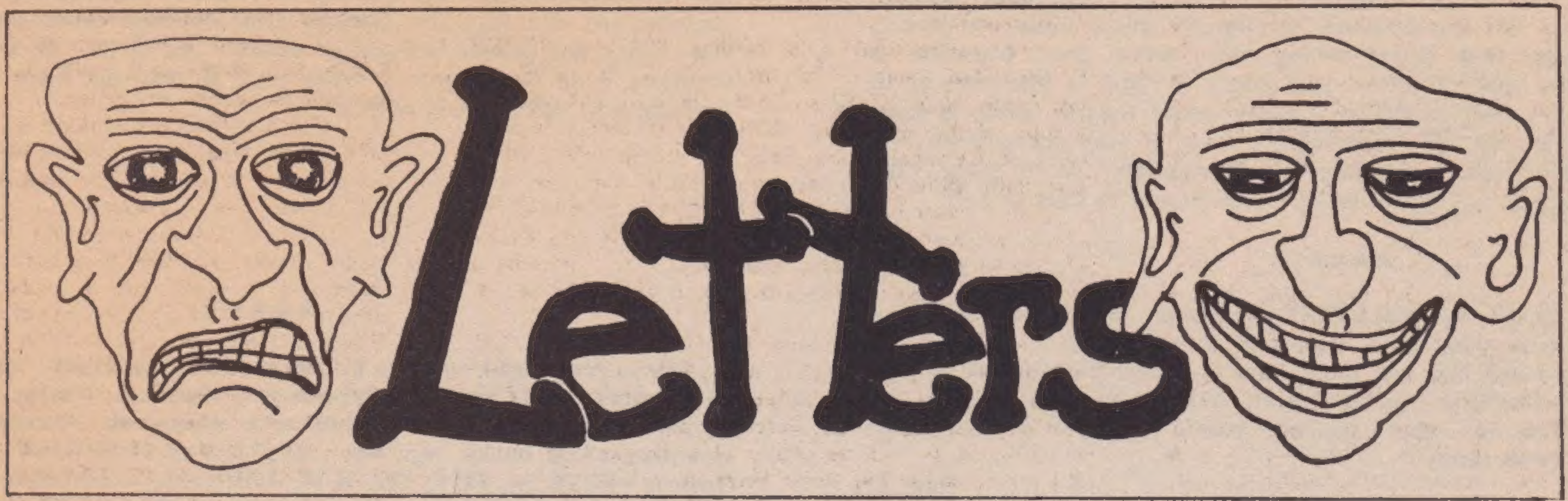
•Samuel Weiser, Inc. (PO Box 612, York Beach, ME 03910) is still selling all sorts of magickal and mystical books. A polite note should get you their next catalog, ranging from classic Crowleyana to New Age whatnot.

•Kent Winslow's **DREAM WORLD** has been running as a serial in **THE MATCH** for quite a while.

Now this story of loneliness, isolation and police states is available in book form for $8 from PO Box 3488, Tucson, AZ 85722.

•Ziesing Newsletter #75-76 (PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226): OK, look. When I buy a new SF book, or a new strange book, I buy it from Mark. If I had more to spend on new books I'd send it all to him. In addition to carrying all sorts of SF and related genres, new, used, and collectible, he publishes things himself from Wolfe, Attanasio, Dick, and others. And he's a neat guy. If you buy books, do it here, not at (ick) Walden. Plus he has columns from Joey Shea and Andy Watson and art by Mark Bilokur gracing the catalog. In #76 he even has an interview with A.A. Attanasio. If this keeps up I'll have to list it in the ZINES section.

•John Zube (7 Oxley St., Berrima, NSW 2577, AUSTRALIA) is still trying to interest other libertarians in microfiche publishing. He's blazed a path in this area, and has over 700 books and thousands of other items available in his "Peace Plans" series, but there's lots more to be done. If this intrigues you, send John a pile of IRCs and ask for more information on what he has done and what you can do.



Thanks for commenting on our new title, **THE BOOK OF AZRAEL**, by Leilah Wendell in issue #28. However, I think you've done us a grave disservice by mentioning the grammatical errors in a book that was clearly marked on the inside front cover as being an **UNCORRECTED ADVANCE COPY**. This is quite a standard practice...

Lori Chandler
Managing Director
Westgate Press

/* *Oops!* I am most embarassed to have made this mistake, since this is far from the first time I've reviewed an uncorrected proof. My only excuse is that the cover looked too well done for this to be a prepublication copy. Readers, forget I made that crack, OK? Thanks. */

*****

Incoherent Stories, eh? Let's call them highly-stylized psycho pieces tapping into the thought patterns of the disconnected mind,

Inane Drawings, you mean funny looking clip-art, right? misleading.

Indecipherable Scribbles, huh? call them madcap visions in a nutshell (albeit with a sick sense of humor).

"What's The Point Here?" Well, what is the point of suicide? Its dark secret will continue to disturb Mothers Everywhere for All Eternity. Tell them it was a senseless act and they won't accept it. Never.

As the cover of the book states: a Non-Fiction No Games mag & pub. Is that clear enough for ya? Read it with those words in mind.

Peter Warner
TOILET SUCK

*****

I have heard of a group calling itself the "Cult Crime Impact Network" has computer dispatches out called "File 18 Newsletters". One dated 5-29-88 has a set of definitions for the so-called "Adult Survivor", which has to do with those who get involved with the occult and "escape", as well as provide the names and addresses of other networking "occult crime monitors". The other dispatch, dated 6-10-88, contains a list of groups that are supposed to have a general involvement with the occult. **FACTSHEET FIVE** is on that list.

Name Withheld

/* I've also seen something called **CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT,** without any address or ordering information. They printed a list of occult groups that my contact claimed they had gotten from the FBI. **FACTSHEET FIVE** was also on that list. Since that time, the FBI has responded to Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act requests on my part that they have no files on either this magazine or myself. If anyone can shed any light on these rumors or the people printing them, I'd be delighted. */

*****

Thanks for the mention of **GNU'S BULLETIN** in FF28. I should point out, however, that GNU should be able to run on most computers with virtual memory and it seems likely at the moment that the 80386 will be the most common CPU used in early GNU systems....So, although most GNU development these days is happening on Sun and similar (68020-based) workstations, your comment "...especially those into Motorola-chip systems" is a bit misleading.

Paul Rubin

/* This is one case where I'm happy to have been wrong. If GNU does become available for 80x86 systems, I'm a potential user. Further details to the readers as I find them out, of course. */

*****

I would appreciate it wholeheartedly if you would mention my address. You see, I am interested in any and all correspondence and periodically put things together for my small but growing mailing list. Mail Art — photocopies — photograpy.

532X
2115 G St.
Sacramento, CA 95816

*****

Thank you for your good review of **THE FEDERALIST PAPERS, NUMBER 86**. When one compares your review to what my attorney said about the book, your remarks were really merciful. My only disappointment in your review is that somehow my really serious error in interpreting a Supreme Court case escaped you.

If you slow down and read it carefully, you will find the error and give me a good panning for making it, which panning I really deserve. I should not have made such a gross error. Even my attorney missed it in checking the typescript and typeset copy; but the responsibility for the error is mine, not his.

James Ervin Norwood

*****

Can you insert a line or two asking if anyone has a copy of **IN A LAND OF CLEAR COLORS** by Robert Sheckley? It was a limited run book and record project (music by Brian Eno) published in Spain about ten years ago. My copy was stolen and I have never been able to replace it.

H. Wessells 4
277 Varick St.
Jersey City, NJ 07302-4019

*****

If you or anyone has an address for *Screaming Broccoli*, would you send it to me?

Katrina Kelly
18 Taylor Ave.
Earlville, NY 13332

*****

re: Last issue's "Movers & Shakers" —

"New Literary Movement"?? Horseshit to you, Mike. Sure, most of us don't like labels but'll admit the need for some sort of description — but "New Literary Movement"? Surely, you could do better.

By the directness and general lack of affectation of these writers, this "Movement" is anything but "literary"...say, Randy Russell might show interest in the act and process of writing itself, but this is far from "literary"... and there certainly is a difference between his writing and Sean Hill's, as well as between them and Denise Dee's (although the writers she prints do have a sort of common style, as well as typewriters with broken shift keys)...but hell —

Words like "new", like "neo" or "alternative" — tend to smack heavily of bullshit...and "movement", as such — certainly not!

Despite my general skepticism and dislike of labels, I will concede the need for a descriptive focus — but such requires *precision*.

Ezra Mark
Vortext/PHOBIA

/* Two things: (1) On the contrary, I strongly think these are literary writers, in the sense that their writing does what great literature is supposed to: it grabs your attention and keeps it. This is literature at its best and hence literary. But as far as I know, what they're doing is new, rather than traditional. As for "movement", well, it was convenient — I could accept anything from "granfaloon" to "conspiracy" in its place. (2) I notice you didn't suggest any better label. I'd be happy to hear one. */

★★★★★

THE CHUCK CLUB NEWSLETTER received *phenomenal* response. Trouble is, by the time your kind review of it came out in **FF5**, all the newsletters I had on hand had run out — *and* — I *lost* the original! So I've had to resort to substitutions (mainly **HAM**). I'd like to publicly apologize to all and sundry. This has *never* happened before in the long and strange history of Mumbles Publictions.

John E.
PO Box 8312
Wichita, KS 67208

/* Thanks to the FF archives, John is once again able to offer copies of **THE CHUCK CLUB NEWSLETTER** for an SASE, so if you missed it the first time, he promises to do it right now. */

★★★★★

I was going to buy a lifetime sub, but I have objections to paying a subsidy for free subs for convicted criminals in prison. If you had a system for determining which prisoners were good guys who were framed — not a large number, but they do exist — I wouldn't mind. But I do believe that the typical inmate was properly convicted of a violent crime. It's bad enough I have to pay taxes to give them a graduate course in how not to get caught the next time.

Name Withheld

/* Deep down, I believe that prisons are unnecessary and inhuman, whether or not most people in them were properly convicted of a crime. I see most prisoners as paying a price for the fact that *all* of us have screwed up our society and economy pretty badly. And I think I could be in the same place under some not-unlikely conditions — and I know I'd go nuts if I was ostracized and cut off from the world as well as physically confined. So I try to do what I can to at least make conditions behind bars a teeny bit more liveable. For those who are interested, about 1% of the money from FF goes into paying for free copies. So I guess people who are really seriously opposed to this policy can subscribe at 1% off the listed prices. */

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Another reason I have for writing are Control Units. In Michigan the concept is newly adopted (from the Feds) but with a vengeance. Whereas the federal government acknowledges the operation of two Control Units (Marion for men holds 250, and Lexington for women holds 125) Michigan has four with a total of 1150 people in them. Control Units are a place where the state can isolate a person from other prisoners, from the public and from attorneys, I am hoping to discover whether other regions of the country are adopting the Control Unit concept (Michigan, California and New York are prison bellwether states) and if so, to what degree. So I mention it to whomever I write and if you do have any information, perhaps you will share it with me.

James Chipman
#130130
PO Box E
Jackson, MI 49204

★★★★★

Mike, you might want to inform readers of a cheap, valuable way to get their nonfiction books & pamphlets into libraries. It's the **VERTICAL FILE**, which is a journal for reference and acquisition librarians that lists and describes small books, reprints, pamphlets and brochures. Their address is: Editor, **VERTICAL FILE**, The H.W. Wilson Co., 950 University Ave., Bronx, NY 10452. Send 'em one review copy with price, ordering information, address, etc., and you'll usually get from 10-50 orders from libraries across the U.S.

Mike Marinacci

★★★★★

Thanks for your favorable reviews of **JU'I LOBYPLI**. We have heard from several of your subscribers asking for our material. Most of these seem pleased with our publication, but several seem confused or overwhelmed by its length. I would suggest to those interested in Lojban that they write instead for our short brochure describing the language — no charge or SASE is all we ask. We are splitting **JL** into two parts: **lojbo nuzba**, which will be news only, and **JL**, which will have letters to the editor, writings in the language, and teaching materials. **lojbo nuzba** will be much cheaper than **JL** and more focused for those new to, or less involved with the language. Those who write for brochures will be added to the **lojbo nuzba** list automatically; they can contribute to its cost if they find it worthwhile, or let us know if it isn't what they want.

Thanks for helping us reach **FACTSHEET FIVE** subscribers with your reviews! ki'e. maik. (*Thank you, Mike!*)

Bob LeChevalier
The Logical Language Group, Inc.
2904 Beau Ln.
Fairfax, VA 22031

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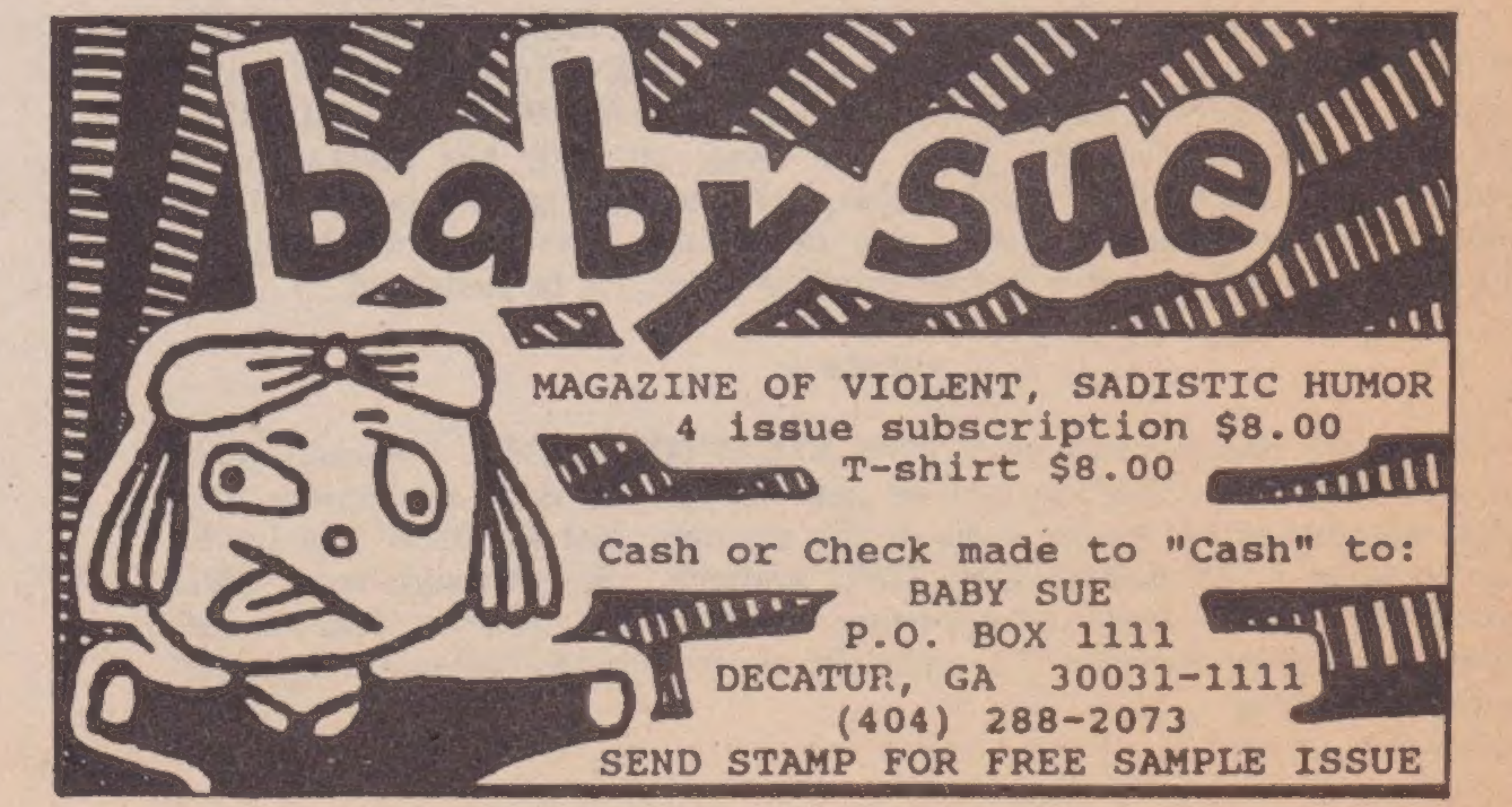

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